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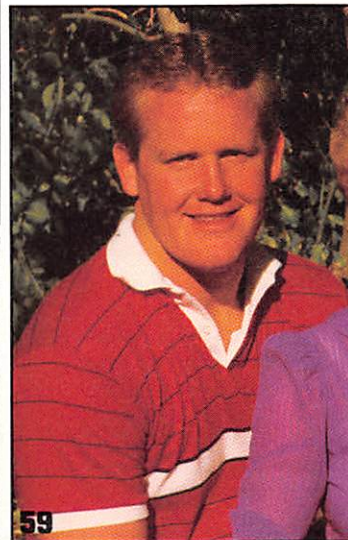
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On The Cover

Los Angeles photographer Alvin Chung caught Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne on the job during the UCLA game.

In The Next Issue

Don't miss the second part of our three part series on Tom Osborne, in addition to our regular features.

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Letters

Big Red Mailbag

What ever happened to Novell Jackson, Stephen Thomas and Pat Woodruff? They are not listed on the 1984 roster.

Bill Preston
Portland, OR

● EDITOR'S NOTE — Jackson and Thomas are redshirted this season. Woodruff didn't return after playing freshman football as a walkon.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

After months of deliberation, I've decided that it is time to get something off my chest. It concerns that infamous Orange Bowl game.

I feel that Coach Osborne must be commended for his actions and decision to go for two points and the outright win like he did. A coach of lesser integrity and morals would have been content and satisfied to "lock into" the championship by going for one point. But as we all know, he chose to win it outright — all or nothing.

Let's face it. Miami had nothing to lose and everything to gain. They had seven weeks to prepare for one home game. I'm convinced it would've been no contest if the game would've been played in Lincoln. But those are the breaks.

Also, one must think of Coach Osborne going out on the recruiting trail when thinking of his decision. What is he supposed to tell a potential recruit? "Come to Nebraska. We have the best program in the country, but we play to tie."

No, I'm one Big Red fan who's proud of his decision and I'm convinced that nine times out of 10, we'll come out on top with that type of gutsy call. Good job Coach Osborne.

Ron Wrocklage
Sacramento, CA

● EDITOR'S NOTE — Most Nebraskans agreed with you, Ron.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

News about Husker football is hard to come by out here in Pac 10 country. Yet we still hear about Arizona State's victory over Nebraska in the Fiesta Bowl several years ago.

I'm a subscriber to *Huskies Illustrated*, and the weekly updates help a lot as well as the feature stories in the monthly issues.

It would help a lot if I could have a copy (two copies if possible) of Nebraska Football Media Guides. Please advise me

of the cost (including first class postage).

I'm a 1928 grad. Though not an athlete, I've been an avid fan of Husker football ever since ushering as an ROTC member at the very first game played in Memorial Stadium in the fall of 1923.

Sincerely,
Floyd F. LeFever
Safford, AZ

● EDITOR'S NOTE — Nebraska football media guides can be ordered through the NU sports information office. The address: 116 South Stadium, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, 68588. The cover price is \$6. We would suggest adding \$1 postage and handling for each book.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

We'd like to disperse the myth of a nasty rivalry between the Tigers of Missouri and the Huskers of Nebraska. Most fans are good friends, like us, and use the games as a time for "getting together."

The only moments of displeasure in our personal relationship, is a bathroom call before halftime — on the part of either of us.

Enjoy your publication a lot.
Ed "Grandpa" Heller
La Grange, MO
Sterling "Grandaughter" Young
Fayette, MO

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

In the September *Huskies Illustrated* issue, in the "Ask Tom Osborne" article, he brought up county scholarships.

Being from Nebraska and living in Manhattan, Kan., you are asked about Nebraska football. One afternoon, somebody started telling me about these county scholarships. I hadn't heard of them before, so the question I have is: Are there such things as county scholarships? If there are, could you please explain them.

Thank you.
Bill Imig
Manhattan, KS

● EDITOR'S NOTE — No, there are no county scholarships. That's probably why you've never heard of them. They are a creation of those who attempt to explain Nebraska's tremendous success at attracting quality walkons. High school athletes in Nebraska have often grown up dreaming of playing for the Cornhuskers some day. That's not always the case in other states.

Dear Huskers:

Having read this editorial in the *Rocky Mountain News* (out of Denver, Colorado) a couple of weeks ago, I was impressed with what Mr. Connor had to say. And after giving it more thought, I have decided to send it along to you. He has said what many of us Nebraska boosters have known all along about the character of the Cornhusker coaching staff.

And just to say thanks for making us proud to be Nebraska boosters. I am very proud of the academic accomplishments of our athletes, as well as their successes in sport.

Judy J. Kimball ('60)
Sterling, Colo.

● EDITOR'S NOTE: We certainly appreciate your sending the editorial to us so that we may share portions of it with our readers.

Dick Connor's column in the Sept. 19, 1984, *Rocky Mountain News* dealt with the reactions of part of the college football world after the serious head injury suffered by Colorado tight end Ed Reinhardt, who, at press time, was still in a coma. Connor pointed to the assistance Osborne personally offered to the Reinhardt family after the outstanding CU player was injured in the second game of the season.

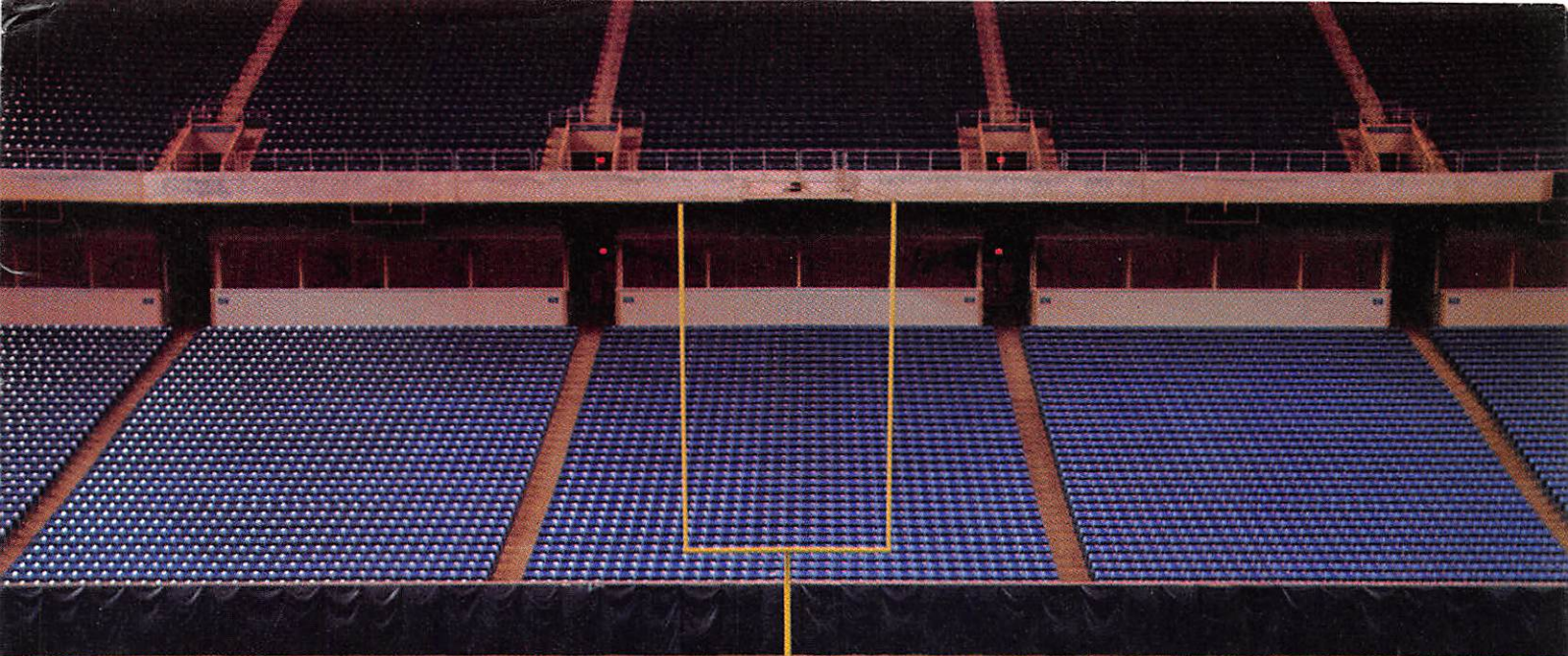
"We have seen Osborne, in what is normally a moment of triumph, personally driving Reinhardt's mother and brother to a Lincoln airport, where Nebraska and Oregon administrators had combined to secure a private jet," Connor wrote in his column.

Connor went on to write, "The Osborne of Nebraska godhood becomes the concerned friend, just a worried man trying to help a distraught mother and her son.

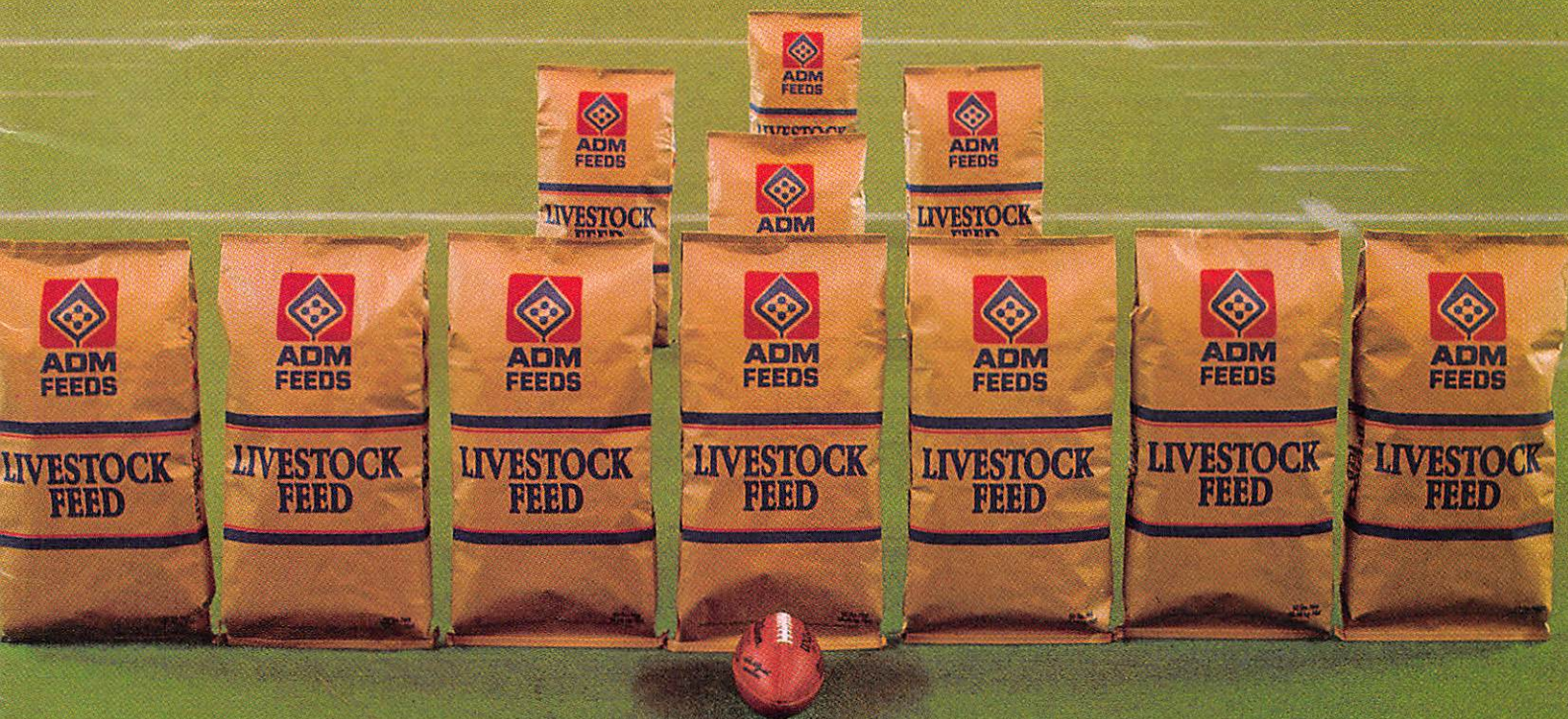
"They are not the exceptions, and that is the point of this story. Charlie Pell is the exception. McCartney and Osborne and Faust and Brooks are the majority, and maybe it takes something like this to remind us of that fact once in a while."

The entire column is well worth reading if you'd care to take time to write to the *Rocky Mountain News* in Denver. ♦

If you have questions or comments, you may write **Letters**, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501.



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Inside Husker sports

Husker tri-captains,
from left to right, Jeff
Smith (28), Mark
Traynowicz (57) and
Bret Clark (10).

captain, captain...

Jeff Smith, one of the Nebraska football team's tri-captains, is the first Cornhusker running back since the 1970 national championship season to be so honored by his teammates. Fullback Dan Schneiss was a co-captain, along with linebacker Jerry Murtaugh, for Bob Devaney's 1970 team.

Smith, center Mark Traynowicz, and safety Bret Clark were voted the Cornhusker captains this fall.

Traynowicz and Clark are both Nebraskans; Traynowicz from Bellevue, Clark from Nebraska City.

According to Traynowicz, who captained the football and wrestling teams at Bellevue West High School: "It's kind of a dream, you might say, for any boy growing up in Nebraska to become a captain of this team."

Of Nebraska's 49 captains since Devaney became the head coach in 1962, 21 have been Nebraskans, with John Kirby being the first during that time. Kirby, from David City, was a co-captain in 1963.

Throughout the Devaney and Tom Osborne eras, the Cornhuskers always

had co-captains until last season, when team voting was so close that Osborne allowed four captains, two on offense and two on defense. The voting was similarly close this fall.

"Every senior who plays a lot and has been starting for awhile would like to have this honor," Clark said after learning he had been picked.

Being elected captain "means the players respect you and your leadership ability," he said.

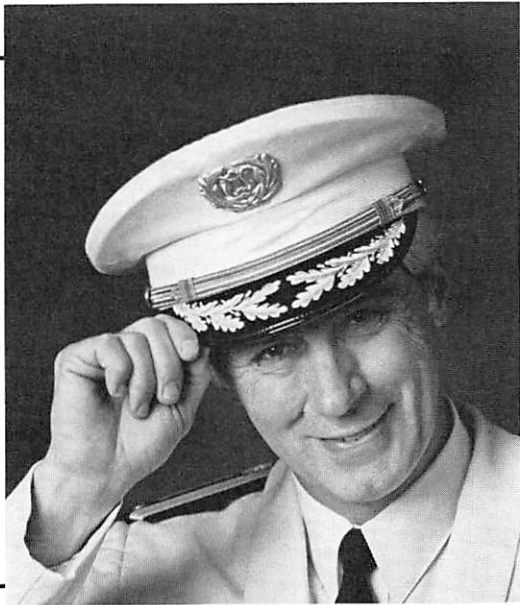
"It was a shock; I wasn't expecting it," said Smith, who's from Wichita, Kan. He also was voted the team's Lifter of the Year last spring.

Which positions are most likely to produce captains?

During the 23-year Devaney-Osborne era, quarterback, linebacker, and defensive back have been the positions. Since 1962, nine quarterbacks, seven linebackers and seven defensive backs have been Cornhusker captains.

The quarterbacks have included Dennis Claridge, Bob Churchich, Jerry Tagge, David Humm, Terry Luck, Vince Ferragamo, Tom Sorley, Mark Mauer, and Turner Gill.





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Second on the offensive captain list have been guards, centers and fullbacks, with four each, while ends are No. 2 in popularity as captains on the defensive side, with five, all of them since Osborne became head coach.

Osborne has had six quarterbacks for offensive captains, while Devaney had four fullbacks. Six defensive backs were Devaney captains.

The only other non-fullback running backs to be elected captains during the Devaney-Osborne era were Ben Gregory,

in 1967, and Bobby Hohn, in 1964. Hohn was a two-way performer and also qualifies as a defensive back.

Cornhusker Captains Since 1962 (* indicates Nebraskan).

1962 — Bill Thornton, Dwain Carlson

1963 — Dennis Claridge, * John Kirby

1964 — * Lyle Sittler, * Bobby Hohn

1965 — Frank Solich, Mike Kennedy

1966 — * Bob Churchich, * Larry Wachholtz

1967 — Ben Gregory, * Marv Mueller

1968 — Tom Penney, Jim Hawkins

1969 — * Mike Green, * Dana Stephenson

1970 — Dan Schneiss, * Jerry Murtaugh

1971 — Jerry Tagge, Jim Anderson

1972 — Doug Dumler, Bill Janssen

1973 — Daryl White, John Dutton

1974 — David Humm, Tom Ruud

1975 — Terry Luck, * Bob Martin

1976 — Vince Ferragamo, * Clete Pillan

1977 — * Greg Jorgensen, Jeff Carpenter

1978 — Tom Sorley, * George Andrews

1979 — Tim Smith, L.C. Cole

1980 — Randy Schleusener, * Derrie Nelson

1981 — Mark Mauer, Jimmy Williams

1982 — * Dave Rimington, * Steve Damkroger

1983 — Turner Gill, * Mike Keeler, *

Dean Steinkuhler, * Mike Tranmer

1984 — Jeff Smith, * Mark Traynowicz, * Bret Clark

would you believe juniors?

Among the more than 40 football players Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne hoped to redshirt this fall were Dan Casterline and Gary Schneider, both junior lettermen.

Schneider, a walkon defensive back from O'Neill, has earned two varsity letters, in fact. But Nebraska was well-stocked with seniors in the secondary this season, so Schneider opted to redshirt. In so doing, he'll provide the Cornhuskers with experience on which to build next fall.

Casterline, a scholarship recruit out of Evergreen, Colo., was moved from monster back to fullback last spring, and the redshirt season is providing him with more time to learn his new position.

Redshirting is often based on need, so that even if a player is held out of games early in the season, he might be forced into action by long-term injuries to key personnel.

Sophomore defensive tackle Chris Spachman nearly was asked to give up his redshirt last season when the defensive line was beset by injuries. Osborne says now, he's glad he didn't decide to use Spachman.

Spachman traveled with the team to East Rutherford, N.J., for the Kickoff Classic and suited up for the home-opener against Wyoming, just in case he was needed, before the final decision to redshirt him was made.

Few Cornhuskers don't redshirt. Nearly all of last year's freshman class, including 15 scholarship athletes, was slated to redshirt this fall, and it appeared

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no one would be asked to forfeit his redshirt following the non-conference schedule.

The only true sophomores who didn't project as redshirts were linebackers Marc Munford, Kevin Parsons and Steve Forch, and defensive tackle Danny Noonan.

Quarterback Clete Blakeman and running back Jon Kelley were members of last year's recruiting class who were forced to redshirt as freshmen because of injuries. Running back Tyreese Knox is in a similar situation this fall.

Osborne waited to decide whether to redshirt wingback Von Sheppard and defensive tackle Lee Jones this season.

Among the players sitting out this season are:

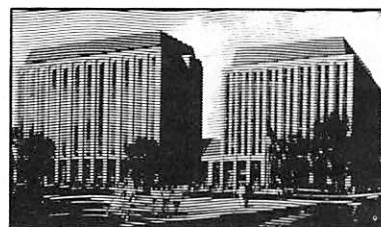
Paul Anderson (Omaha) FB
 Dan Bailey (Gibbon) OL
 Tom Banderas (Oak Grove, Mo.) TE
 Dan Casterline (Evergreen, Colo.) FB
 Gene Chealey (Orlando, Fla.) DB
 McCathorn Clayton (Orlando, Fla.) QB
 Danny Groskurth (Beemer) DL
 Kelly Haecker (Odell) DB
 Mike Hall (Omaha) TE
 Hendley Hawkins (Los Angeles) SE
 Mike Hedlund (O'Neill) FB
 Micah Heibel (Lincoln) FB
 Blake Henning (Crete) LB
 Scott Hill (Omaha) DB
 Jim Holscher (Cook) WB
 Bill Hudson (Hebron) OL
 Novell Jackson (Havre de Grace, Md.) RB
 Jeff Jamrog (Omaha) DE
 Lee Jones (Omaha) DL
 Scott King (Stromsburg) DB
 Tyreese Knox (Daly City) RB
 Bill Macias (Huntington Beach, Calif.) OL
 Tom Mattingly (Grand Island) DB
 John McCormick (Omaha) OL
 John Nichols (Littleton, Colo.) OL
 Harlan Opie (Great Bend, Kan.) DE
 Jay Otto (Aurora) DE
 Tony Palmer (Omaha) DL
 Jim Roe (Grand Island) DL
 Tim Rother (Bellevue) OL
 Jim Schaaf (Superior) OL
 Gary Schneider (O'Neill) DB
 Craig Schnitzler (Battle Creek) K
 Von Sheppard (St. Paul, Minn.) WB
 Rod Smith (Thornton, Colo.) SE
 Lance Storer (Sutherland) OL
 Jeff Taylor (Omaha) QB
 Paul Tewes (Crete) TE
 Stephen Thomas (Denver) DL
 Greg Van Dyke (Columbus) DE
 Doug Welniak (Elyria) LB
 Scott Yost (Grand Island) SE



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Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride has distributed only 11 black practice jerseys to first team defenders this fall.

On occasion during recent seasons, more than 11 players have worn the coveted black, mesh jerseys, the trademark of the proud Cornhusker Black Shirts. "We've gotten a little carried away with it," McBride says. "But we want to make it a real tradition again. Eleven shirts, and that's it."

The first 11 Black Shirts to be distributed this fall were to ends Bill Weber and Scott Strasburger, tackles Chris Spachman and Rob Stuckey, middle guard Ken Graeber, linebackers Marc Munford and Mark Daum, cornerbacks Dave Burke and Neil Harris, monster Mike McCashland and safety Bret Clark.

Spachman is a third-year sophomore from Kansas City, Mo., who played in his first varsity game at Nebraska as a freshman. The Cornhuskers were well on their way to a 42-7 victory over Iowa when McBride called for him.

Spachman's surprised expression said: "Are you kidding? You want me to go in?"

"Yes you," said McBride.

Spachman's excitement about going into his first Nebraska game was heightened by the fact that his parents, Robert and Carol, were part of the audience of 76,000 in Memorial Stadium. Both parents are Iowa graduates.

"I think when he got in there, the first thing he did was sack the quarterback," McBride said.

Spachman, who didn't play football until his senior year at Bishop Miege High in Kansas City, Kan., started on an undefeated junior varsity team that fall, suited up for the varsity game with Oklahoma, and was included on the travel roster for the Orange Bowl, but he never got in any other varsity contests.

"It still amazes me that I'm in the position I am. Sometimes I wonder, 'How in the heck did I ever get here,'" said the 6-3, 248-pound Spachman.

from quarterback to receiver

Last fall, Nebraska had four freshman quarterbacks on scholarship, a positive situation but one which foreshadowed a position shift or two.


Hendley Hawkins was the first to decide that a change of position might be in his best interest, so he agreed to become a split end.


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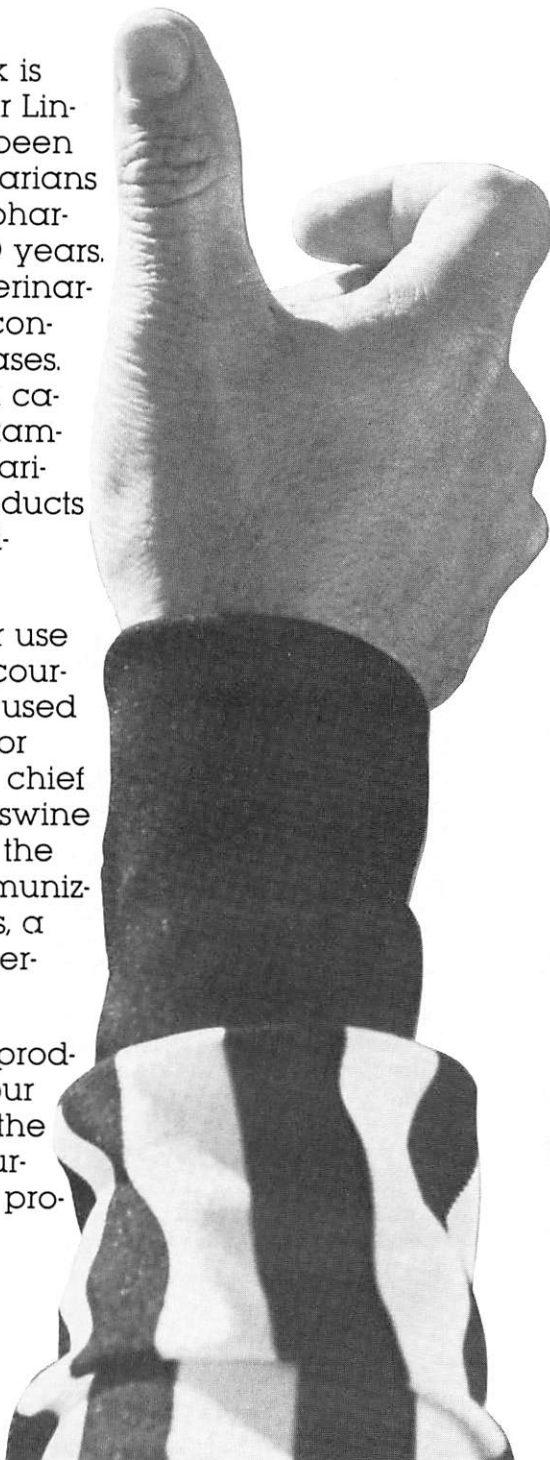
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Coach Gene Huey, Hawkins has the skills to be a good receiver. "He's got good speed, good quickness and soft hands," Huey said. Hawkins, 5-9, 185, has been timed in :04.7 in the 40-yard dash.

"Hendley's a very fine natural athlete, who could play various skill positions. I think it was a wise decision," said Huey.

Hawkins was fourth-string, the seventh quarterback listed on the depth chart when he made the decision to redshirt. At the conclusion of spring practice, Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne asked him if he'd be interested in changing positions, but "I told him I wanted to try quarterback one more year," Hawkins said.

One day into fall drills, however, "I decided, What the heck. I might as well go for it now."

Hawkins' size, in particular his height, was a factor in encouraging a position switch.

"He's 5-9, and you can't make him any taller. He can play quarterback at 5-9, but size is just a more limiting factor (at quarterback) than it is at split end," said Osborne.

In addition, Hawkins has the skills to play elsewhere, "probably more so than the others."

Hawkins wasn't forced to move from quarterback to split end. "It was basically up to me," he said. "If I wanted to stay, all right, and if not, that was all right, too. But Coach Osborne told me if it eventually came down to the four of us and no one wanted to move, he'd probably move me."

Hawkins is redshirting, as are Jeff Taylor and McCathorn Clayton.

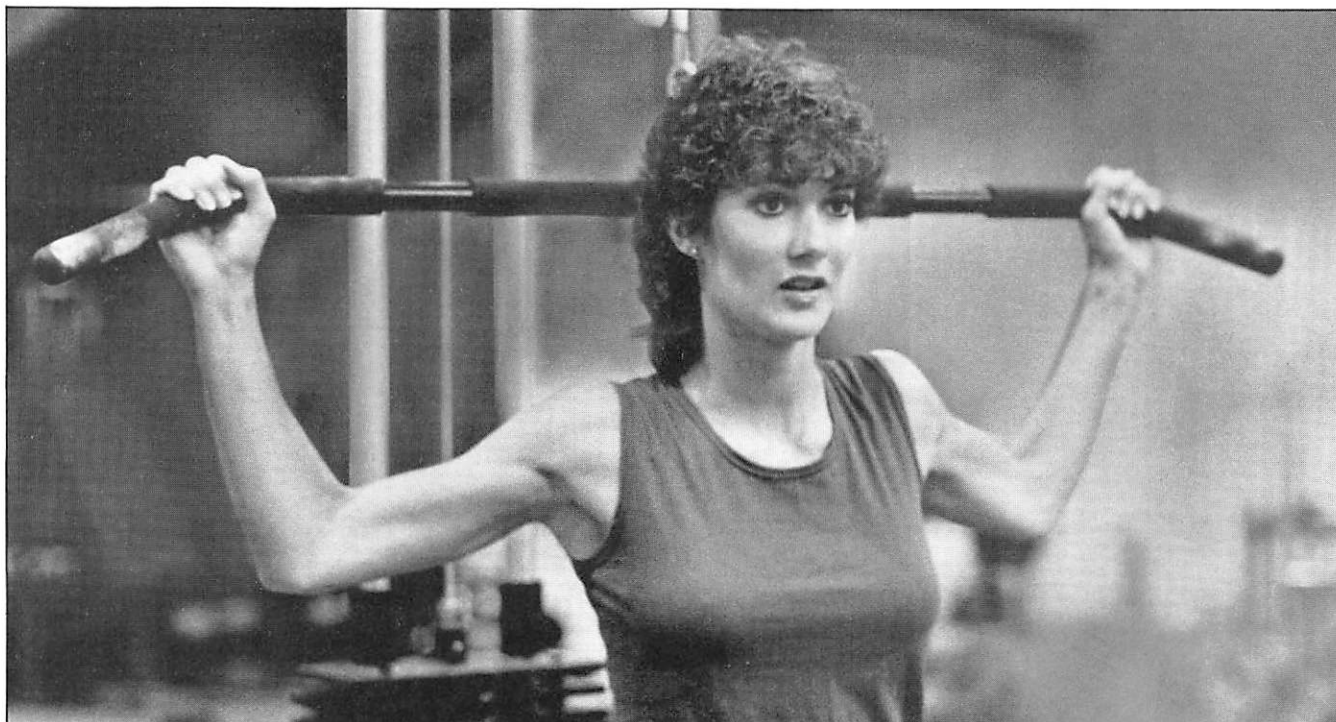
The fourth scholarship quarterback of a year ago, Clete Blakeman, redshirted as a freshman and is now a varsity back-up.

Hawkins was heavily-recruited out of Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles, after gaining nearly 2,000 yards in total offense and leading his team to the city championship game as a senior. He completed 10 of 29 passes for 88 yards and one touchdown on the NU junior varsity team last fall.

Cornhusker quotes

Senior quarterback Craig Sundberg on the importance of good offensive linemen: "I'm really sold on the fact that we're (backs) only going to look as good as our offensive linemen. They deserve as much credit as the backs."

Sundberg on the basis for Nebraska's
Continued on page 52



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— Anxious Redshirts —

Three juniors find themselves at odds
— after coaches ask each to take a —
redshirt year.

By Chuck Sinclair

They hear the question all the time. They hear it from their friends back home. They hear it from casual acquaintances on campus, and even strangers on the street.

Dan Casterline and Gary Schneider spent their Saturdays last fall as active members of the Nebraska Cornhusker football team. Schneider, from St. Mary's High School in O'Neill, Nebraska picked up his second varsity letter while Casterline, a Colorado native, lettered for the first time. Both were sophomores.

Now, the pair of University of Nebraska juniors are playing much more obscure roles on Husker game days.

Instead of being suited up and ready for action on the sidelines, Casterline and Schneider mix with the sellout crowds of 76,000-plus at home. And when the Huskers are on the road, television provides the only link with the excitement they felt first-hand last year.

Thus, the obvious question.

"Have you quit the football team?"

Both can answer an emphatic NO. Nothing could be further from the truth, although appearances can be deceiving. Casterline and Schneider are rare junior redshirts.

At the University of Nebraska, the redshirt doesn't carry the prestige of the defensive BlackShirt that signifies excellence, but don't underestimate the significance of the redshirt to the overall program.

Casterline and Schneider certainly aren't.

But the situation they find themselves in

is somewhat rare, and admittedly, at times difficult to handle.

Casterline and Schneider, along with Bellevue West's Tony Holloway, were three juniors asked by the coaching staff prior to fall camp to take a redshirt year.

For Casterline and Holloway, the decision was for obvious reasoning. Both had just made position changes following their active sophomore seasons, and the redshirt year would give them added familiarity with their new surroundings.

Holloway was moved from a linebacker to a defensive end and Casterline from a monster to fullback.

"The position change had a lot to do with my redshirt," Casterline said. "I can see from the coaches' perspective where I need the time and improvement in my new position."

Schneider, however, was remaining at cornerback, a position he had played well enough as a freshman to make the trips to Hawaii and the Orange Bowl while earning one of the few freshman letters awarded.

As a sophomore, he earned a second letter, and hoped to be in position to battle for increased playing time as a junior.

When defensive back Coach Bob Thornton approached him first with the possibility of redshirting last spring, Schneider said it was like a bomb being dropped on him.

"Right at first, it was extremely difficult to take," Schneider said. "I knew I had been playing last year, and playing my freshman year, and it seemed real weird for me not to be around the things I had ex-

perienced."

Schneider said that Thornton had approached him in the spring because Dennis Watkins had come in and was a solid prospect at cornerback, and Mike Carl was coming off a redshirt season, and looked like he would be help as well. Since Schneider hadn't redshirted as a sophomore, instead of splitting time his junior season, the prospects were there to start for two full seasons if he continued to improve in a redshirt season.

"Coach Thornton said he didn't think I had stood out enough in spring ball to take away a starting position from either Neil (Harris) or Dave (Burke), and that I would probably just be splitting time again," Schneider said. "If I redshirted, I would at least be looking at the possibility of starting for two years."

"In the back of my mind, that's kept me going."

Redshirting was initially easier for Casterline to take, but there was some doubts in his mind when he was asked to consider a move from defensive monster to fullback.

Casterline had been highly recruited out of high school because of his defensive credentials, even though he averaged over 100 yards a game as a senior at fullback.

When he made his official recruiting trip to Nebraska, Casterline didn't even speak with then backfield coach Mike Corgan. It was all defense.

"Every school in the conference had recruited me to play defense except Oklahoma State," Casterline said. "It's funny, but the day I got here, Coach



Dan Casterline

(Tom) Osborne and Coach (Frank) Solich asked me if I would like to switch to fullback.

"I looked at all the possibilities, and I thought it really looked good for me as a defensive back. Now the way it looks, it looks better for me on offense. Scott Porter will be gone next year, and Tom Rathman has one more year left. Plus, it looks like we have some really good players at monster coming up."

When Thornton talked to Casterline about his possible position switch, after some deliberation, he agreed it would be in his best interest.

That doesn't, however, make the junior redshirt year much less difficult.

"There's a significant difference in redshirting as a junior," Casterline said. "Mainly because of the playing experience. Those who redshirt right after their freshman year really haven't been around the scene to prepare for every game, to go through the pre-game and be fortunate enough to play."

"As a junior, I've been through all of that. It's exciting to have that. As I look back on those memories, I look forward to having more just like them."

The start of fall practices was difficult for both Casterline and Schneider.

"It was really strange, the first few weeks, to look at the other end of the field and see where I had been practicing," Schneider said. "The last two years I had been wearing a gold shirt, and now, all of a sudden, I would look and see a white shirt of a scout team member."

"It was hard to take, both personally and egotistically. At first I felt like I just wasn't good enough. Then, I looked at the other aspects and hope they've got enough confidence in me that they're saving me to start for two years."

The weekend of the Syracuse game was

especially difficult for Schneider to take.

Since he wasn't making the trip, he opted for a trip home to O'Neill to watch the Nebraska game on television, and follow that by watching his two brother's play for the state's top-ranked Class C-2 school.

"That was a real tough Saturday. Watching that Syracuse game, there was absolutely nothing that I could do about it what-so-ever. I didn't feel like doing anything at all," Schneider said. "If it hadn't been for my brothers playing, and winning big, it would have been a whole day of doom."

"I was shocked...and really frustrated sitting at home and able to do nothing. I wish to God I could have been there."

Casterline found missing the first road trip, Nebraska's successful venture to California, the hardest first step to get past



Tony Holloway

as a redshirt.

"That's when being a redshirt really hit me," he said. "Before the UCLA game, it wasn't too far out of the norm. I was helping Boyd (Epley) with some recruiting, and the guys were all still around to talk with after the game. But when everybody's gone on the road, it leaves a feeling of emptiness in your stomach. It's also a feeling of motivation."

Casterline has found outlets for his feelings in some of the school work he's involved with through an adaptive class.

He's been helping with handicapped children through the Auld Center, working with them in a teaching situation.

"We'll go bowling or roller skating," he said. "I've really enjoyed it. We work with them, teach them, discipline them and have a good time with them. I'd never done anything like that before, so it was quite an

experience."

Casterline was a little hesitant in his first experience in working with the handicapped, but any reservations he had were quickly dispelled.

"In a lot of cases, their personalities are even more aggressive than mine," Casterline said. "The time you spend with them just flies by. I'm learning a lot. I found it really easy to handle."

He's not even looking at the redshirt situation as something he "has to handle."

"I try not to think about it as something that, wow, I have to handle now. That I'm being redshirted now, so I have to handle the emotion," he said. "I know I practice every day, just like everyone else. It's just that I know I won't play."

"I'm trying to get better each and every day. A lot of people have told me I'd pick up bad habits as a redshirt. Coach Solich told me there were two ways I could go, either down, or up."

Casterline has chosen up.

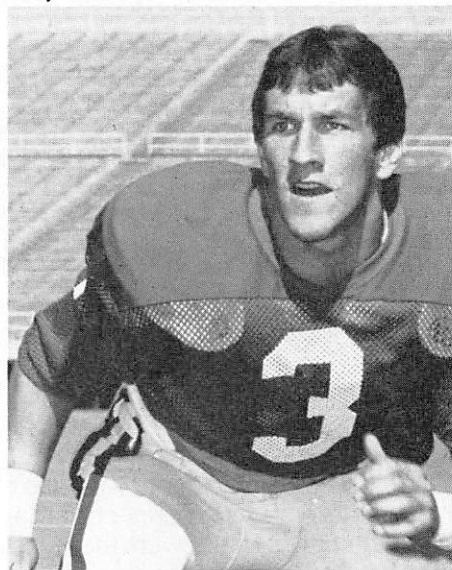
He watches Rathman and Porter and studies their techniques. He talks to his friends on the defense he's played with in the past, and asks their advice.

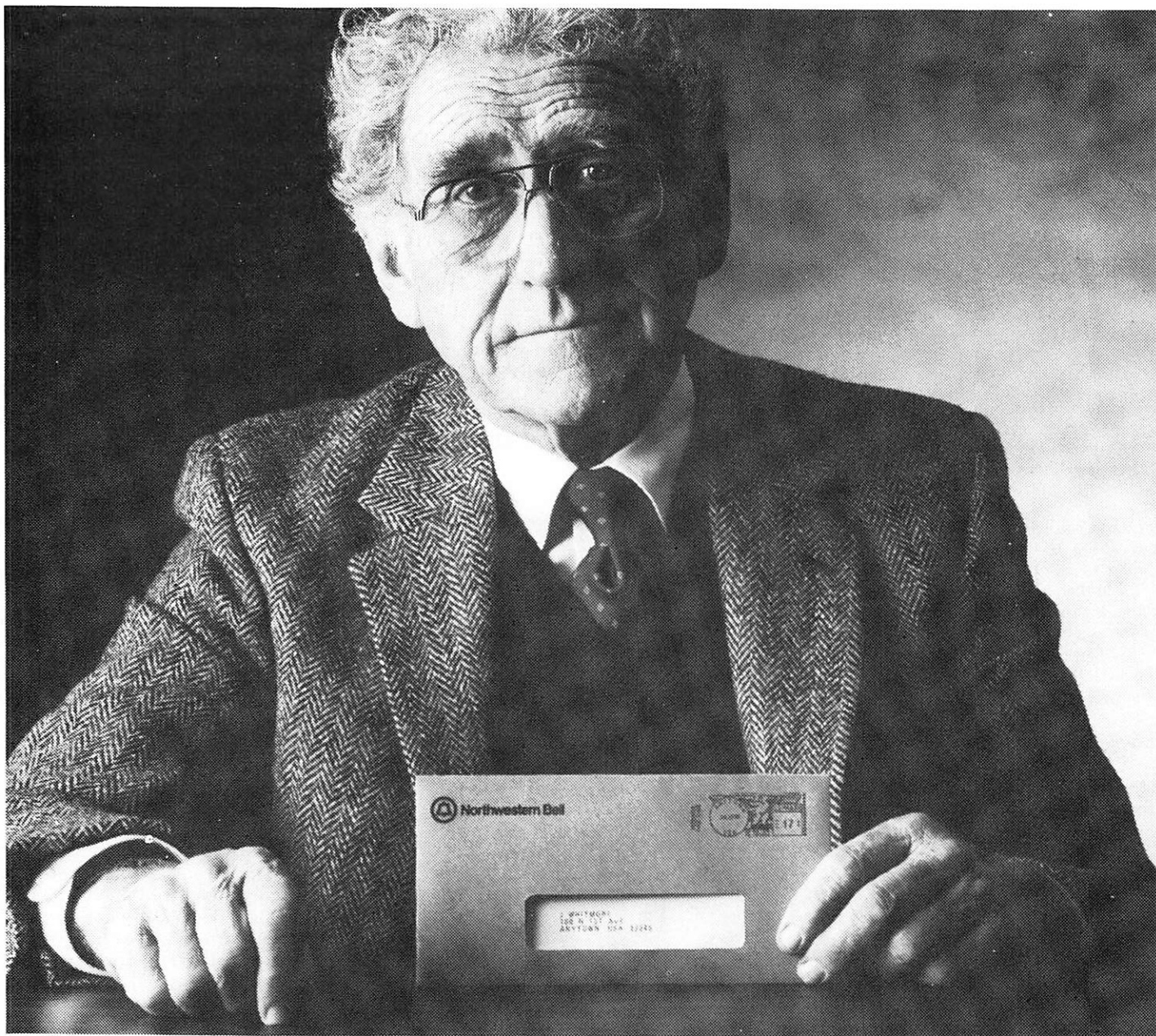
"They can give me advice because they play against the best in the country," Casterline said. "They know what's toughest for them to handle in a fullback. I just want to be the best I can for the team. If I can play, I'll play anywhere."

Casterline also knows that as a redshirt, he has a duty to help the team in that respect.

"I know from being on the other end that the job of the redshirt is to give the defense a good look and help them prepare for their next opponent," he said. "I know what's going through their minds. And I know what they do to the scout team. They'll hit you hard and give out abuse. I'm going to try and give out some abuse,

Gary Schneider





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too."

Schneider isn't worried about the bad habits, either. "I think it would have been easier to develop them as a sophomore redshirt. Now, we know what's expected of us, and what aspects we need to work on as players. I find myself in practice working on my backpedal coverage. And I think about how to play it down on our defense.

"I just have to keep up the hard work and wait for the playing days to start coming around again. That thought in the back of my mind really helps keep me going."

It wasn't easy watching the players he'd become close with, Bret Clark, Dave Burke, Neil Harris and Mike McCashland, playing out their final season without him.

"I got to be real good friends with those guys last year, and I was looking forward to play with them their last year. I've enjoyed playing with them all," Schneider said. "Now, next year will be a whole new group. I'm going to keep working hard to make sure I'm in there."

The upcoming spring will be crucial for both Casterline and Schneider.

"It'll be the most important spring of my life," Schneider said. "I look forward to it, and to the challenge. I really want to do well. I'm going to come out with No. 1 as my main goal. That's what I'm shooting for."

"You never know what's going to happen," Casterline said. "I go out every day and try to better myself. That's all I can do. The rest is in the hands of God."

The biggest challenge of all might be proving to those doubters that Dan Casterline and Gary Schneider have not quit the University of Nebraska football team.

"I had so many people question my abilities when I first came down here because I came from a small town and a small school," Schneider said. "They wondered if I can play."

"Now, I have people at home who don't understand the redshirt, especially as a junior, and there are others who wonder if I've quit the team. I have to prove myself all over again. I have to prove to the coaches and prove to the people that I can play. The biggest challenge to me right now is to become No. 1, and to start. This spring will be the telling point. If it doesn't happen this spring, it may never happen. I'm going to give it all that I can, that's for sure. I'll combine everything I have together, and I'll stand a good shot of accomplishing my goal."

That's why Schneider, Casterline and Holloway are working so hard now.

"When you redshirt as juniors like we are, they tell you that you can either lay down, or make everything better," Schneider said. "You can't wait for the spring or the fall to get ready. Now is when you have to get ready. What you do for yourself now controls your future." ♦

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Tom Osborne

The Athlete

EDITOR'S NOTE: Nebraska's Tom Osborne has a reputation as one of the premier collegiate football coaches in America. The following is the first part of a three-part series on Osborne, profiling the athlete, the coach and the man. This issue profiles Tom Osborne, the athlete.

Tom Osborne has lived with the All-American boy image for most of his life. But he hasn't always kept out of mischief.

"The first memory I have of football was not pleasant," recalled Nebraska's head football coach.

"My dad was quite athletic-oriented. I started playing catch with him with a football almost as early as I could walk. One time, we were playing inside the house.

"My mother had an expensive antique cabinet. I don't know why, but for some reason I got an urge to kick the ball back to my dad. So I did...and, of course, broke the cabinet. The incident caused quite a crisis in our household for awhile."

For Tom Osborne, the memory is vivid, perhaps because it was one of his few unpleasant experiences while growing up on the great plains of Nebraska.

It is also vivid because he and his father, Charles, a Nebraska history expert who died earlier this year, spent little time together during Tom's early boyhood.

"The first four years of my life, I basically saw him Sundays and maybe Saturday afternoons," related Tom. "It was Depression time in the late '30s and he was on the road traveling."

Even though he was only four, Tom insists he can still remember a particular

Sunday morning "when it came over the radio that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. There was a lot of damage and the United States had decided to go to war.

"I can still remember that coming over the radio and my dad jumping up out of his chair and saying: 'I'm going to get involved in that thing.' So he joined the Army."

Osborne's father was 37 years old at the time. "He wouldn't have had to go. He was beyond the draft age," Tom pointed out. "But he was kind of a romantic guy and this was a direct attack. It was all-out to see who was going to survive. It put quite a burden on my mom. I was four and my brother, Jack, was two."

The incident is significant in Tom Osborne's development as an athlete because he spent the next five years of his life without his father. "He was overseas four of those years," Osborne said. "So the first nine years of my life, I knew more of my dad than I actually knew him."

After his father left, Tom, his mom and brother moved to St. Paul, Nebraska, to live with his grandparents.

"My mom taught school for a year and spent a couple of years working in the war plant in Grand Island. So I spent a lot of time with my grandparents," Tom recalled.

"It was kind of nice, growing up in a

small town and yet those were kind of anxious times. I can remember not hearing from my dad for as long as three months. We didn't know if he was alive or dead until we got a letter. I was so young, it didn't affect me so much as it affected the people around me.

"I remember my mother being on edge a lot and my grandparents not knowing how the war was going to come out. For a kid, that's kind of an anxious thing."

When his father returned after World War II, "I was nine or 10 years old," Osborne pointed out. "I didn't remember him very well. It was kind of like starting all over when we moved back to Hastings."

In St. Paul, Osborne remembers "playing games in grade school and going to high school football games and all that. But it wasn't until after my father came back that my interest in athletics was really spurred. He was very interested. He'd take me to games, play catch and talk to me about athletics."

Just as important, the late Charles Osborne moved his family right across the street from Hastings College, where Tom's grandfather played on the school's first football team in 1900.

"I was over at the college every night after school during football season," Tom

Tom Osborne — The Athlete



A young Tom Osborne, edging out a Wesleyan man in the 440.

recalled. "During basketball season, we'd hang around until basketball practice was over. Then we'd get to shoot the ball for 15 minutes before they turned the light out in the gym."

Hastings College was Tom Osborne's second home. He was always there, even during track season.

"Dr. French, the college president, had to kick us off campus many times himself because we were wearing out the grass. He

tried to be nice about it. But when we were always playing in the same area, the grass really did wear off. He just told us we had to get out of there."

Osborne was a straight-A student in high school and college. He has a reputation as an academician. But he admits "athletics was my whole life" in his younger years.

"We played football, then basketball, then track, then baseball in the summer," he said. "It wasn't real organized, but we just kept going from one sport to another. They were all pickup games. We'd get all

the extra football equipment we could get. Anything the college was throwing out there, we'd pick up and use it. We played all the time."

Tom's first measurable success came in junior high school athletics.

"I remember my eighth grade year in football when I didn't start the first junior high game," Osborne recalled. "It was against Barr Junior High of Grand Island. That was a big deal and it just killed me."

Not starting against Barr was tough, but not as tough as trying to play Junior Legion baseball. Hastings had one of the

Tom Osborne — The Athlete

best programs in the Midwest “and that was my first really tough time in athletics between my ninth and 10th-grade years,” Osborne said.

“Earl Applebee had just come to Hastings. He was a real disciplinarian and a really good baseball coach. We had a good program and a lot of good athletes. We won the state championship that year. But I didn’t play very much.

“I could hit the ball,” Osborne said. “I just didn’t have any power. I was like 6-foot-2 and 135 pounds. I think I went 0-for-25, 1-for-25, or something like that. I sat on the bench most of the summer. All of a sudden, I was in there with the big boys and I didn’t do very well. It was something I’d never had to deal with.”

The adversity helped prepare Osborne for the real world of varsity athletics.

“My sophomore year, I was able to play varsity football,” he acknowledged. “We didn’t have a great team. We won about as many as we lost. But I got to start a couple games at quarterback.”

Osborne also played reserve basketball as a sophomore and pulled a muscle in track. “So it was kind of a so-so year,” he said.

He could not, however, pin the same label on 1953, his junior year. That’s when Tom Osborne’s name became known, state-wide.

“My junior year, we had a great football team,” he said. “We only lost one game, 21-20, to Grand Island.”

Osborne remembers the score because “late in the game, I made a fairly long run down to about the 15. I thought I was down on both knees when a guy hit me from behind and knocked the ball loose. They ruled it a fumble and Grand Island started stalling out the clock.

“I felt very bad about that game because we had a good team. I think Grand Island was the state champion that year and we only lost to them by one point.”

The difference may have been that one fumble. But Osborne put the experience behind him and was the only junior starter on a Hastings team that won the 1954 state basketball championship.

“Nobody really came close to us in the state tournament,” Osborne said. “We had some big guys. We had three guys in the front line who were all 6-5 and pretty hefty — Dick Kleiber, Calvin Johnson and John Swanson. Kleiber came to the university on a football scholarship and Johnson came here on a basketball scholarship.

“Larry Deeter was one guard and he was 6-2. I was the other guard and I was 6-3. For a high school team at that time, we

were pretty big.”

Even though another pulled muscle spoiled his junior track season, Osborne played third base on Hastings’ state championship baseball team that summer.

A state title in basketball, a state title in baseball and a near-miss in football made Osborne a marked man during his senior year at Hastings.

“A lot of those guys graduated, but we



Tom at home in 1952.

still finished 6-3 the next year in football,” he recalled. “The big loss was to Grand Island again, 14-13.”

Osborne threw a pass for the extra point that would have tied that game. “I remember it,” Osborne said, laughing, “because the ball hit the guy in the hands and he muffed it two or three times before he finally dropped it.”

Osborne’s senior basketball season was personally productive, but didn’t deliver what he wanted for the team.

“We got beat by Scottsbluff in the district tournament,” he recalled. “We were ahead by 13 points at the end of the third quarter. They went into a full-court press and knocked us all over the place. I thought the game kind of got away from

the officials.”

After Scottsbluff rallied to beat Hastings in district, “they came down and won the state tournament,” Osborne pointed out. “They had a guy named Bud Murray. He really played well for them.”

Osborne was named All-State in football and All-State in basketball. And ironically, after two frustrating seasons in track, he won the state discus championship as a senior.

“I’d never thrown the discus before that spring,” he said. “I just kind of picked it up and got lucky. I beat Dick Wood of Lincoln High by a quarter of an inch. I think it’s the same Dick Wood who’s now a university attorney and helped us in the television suit brought by UCLA.”

Osborne’s best throw in the discus was around 155 feet. “I was just glad to get through the season,” he said. “I’d been trying to be a hurdler and kept pulling a muscle. Finally, when I was a senior, the coaches made me run the quarter and I got second.”

Osborne’s high school years passed quickly. He was a solid performer on outstanding teams as a junior and the star performer on less spectacular teams as a senior.

For his success, he credits the town more than himself.

“Hastings was a good sports town,” he said. “We had a very strong rivalry with Grand Island. We were pretty close to the same size. Hastings had about 21,000 people and Grand Island had about 27,000.

“It seems like they’ve kind of grown apart over the years,” said Osborne, failing to acknowledge that the Tom Osborne Expressway still connects the two communities.

“Grand Island has shot up to about 35,000 people and Hastings has stayed about the same,” Osborne pointed out. “In recent years, there’s been quite a disparity, athletically.”

But in Osborne’s era, the rivalry was so intense, it produced higher goals.

Strangely enough, Osborne’s athletic idol during his junior high years was Bobby Reynolds of Grand Island.

Nebraska’s head coach made that admission earlier this fall at a dinner honoring Reynolds, the ex-Husker All-American, for his induction into the National College Football Hall of Fame.

Osborne also idolized Ted Connor and Chuck Stickels, two great high school athletes from Hastings in the early 1950s.

With Hastings College being so close, “I was really tuned into their athletics,” said Osborne, who could not escape the All-

Tom Osborne — The Athlete

American image nurtured by being a great prep athlete, a straight-A student and student body president in one of Nebraska's largest high schools.

Tom Osborne, the coach, probably would have recruited Tom Osborne, the athlete, very hard.

But things were different in 1955. People in Nebraska knew Bob Hope, not Bob Devaney.

"I did all right in school. But my whole life was really just athletics," Osborne said. "It was the only thing I was really interested in."

For Osborne, the interest was almost equally divided between football and basketball. "I really preferred football, but maybe had as much or more success in basketball," he said.

Osborne was contacted by then NU basketball Coach Jerry Bush and then NU football Coach Bill Glassford.

But their interest "was never very intense," Osborne said. "They both said I had a scholarship down here if I wanted it. But it was kind of a take it or leave it approach."

Meanwhile, other schools showed interest in recruiting this tall, talented red-head, who ranked 13th academically in his high school graduating class of 212.

Wyoming offered him a football scholarship. Denver University offered him a basketball scholarship.

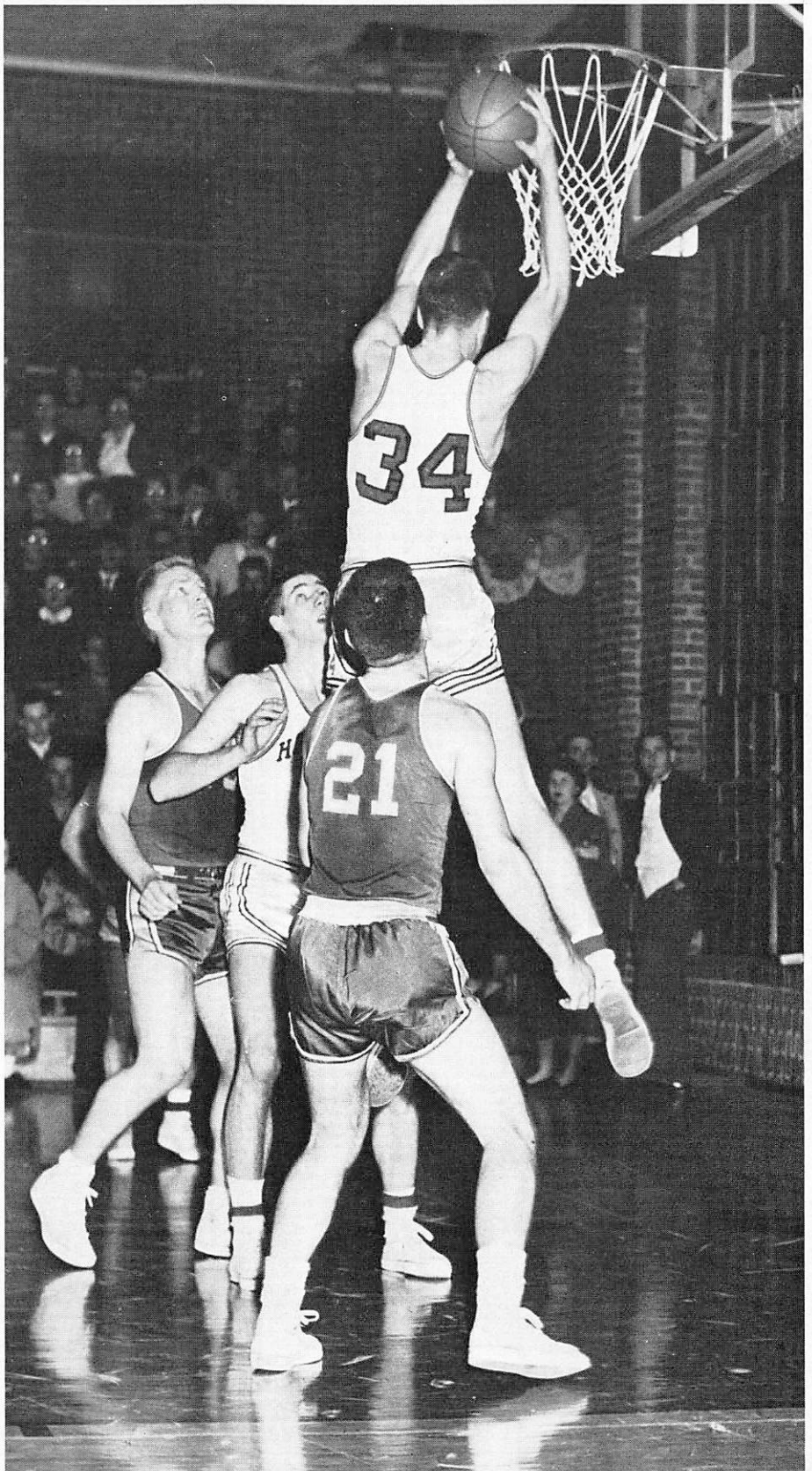
Even though Nebraska's interest was lukewarm and Osborne chose to attend the college that was next door, he had a dream to compete at the major college level.

"Strangely enough, at that time, I was a big admirer of the University of Oklahoma," he recalled. "They were doing very well and I thought Bud Wilkinson was a great coach. If they'd ever called me up, I would have gone to Oklahoma. They were good and I followed them pretty closely."

But when it came right down to it, Osborne knew Hastings football Coach Tom McLaughlin better than anyone outside his family and friends.

"I'd been around their practices all the time and I did want to play both sports," Osborne said. "The coaches at the university told me I was going to have to do one or the other."

"They told me I could try both. But they more or less indicated it wouldn't work out. I didn't feel the coaches at Nebraska had ever given me any strong indication they wanted me. But later, in talking to some people like (ex-NU trainer) Paul Schneider, I guess they really did



Tom Osborne (34), on the jumper, tries for two; the opponent is unidentified.

Tom Osborne — The Athlete

want me here."

Even though the times were different, Osborne was surprised. "It was more like they'd write me a letter and say: 'Stop in when you're in Lincoln,'" he related. "They never came out to see me or anything."

Conversely, "I saw Tom McLaughlin almost every day of my life," Osborne pointed out. "So, finally, he talked me into going to Hastings College."

The experience followed a familiar script. Osborne competed in three sports and excelled in three sports to become the first two-time winner of the Nebraska State College Athlete of the Year Award in both *The Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star* and *The Omaha World-Herald*.

In his freshman year at Hastings Col-

lege, Osborne started at quarterback "on a fairly good football team." He also started on a basketball team that qualified for the NAIA National Basketball Tournament in Kansas City.

Sitting in a large, well-decorated office earlier this fall, Osborne forgot about football and remembered perhaps his most humbling athletic experience ever.

"At the Kansas City tournament, I remember guarding a guy named Benny Swain of Tennessee A&I," Osborne recalled.

"He was about 6-9. He was big. It seemed to me like he weighed 300 pounds, but I suppose he must have been between 230 and 240."

The 6-4, 180-pound Osborne was in a physical mismatch "and there wasn't

much I could do to stop him," he said. "I just leaned on him and pushed on him and he still scored 32 points. They just went up and down the floor on us. We stayed with 'em the first half. But we couldn't stay with 'em the second half."

If Osborne's memory serves him correct, Swain "played pro basketball for the Boston Celtics the next year," he said. "Here I was a freshman playing a senior like that. The game wasn't bad, but this guy was good. I think they went on and either won or were runner-up in the 32-team tournament."

In Osborne's sophomore year at Hastings College, "we had a good football team," he said. "We lost to Kearney State and won most of the rest of the games. And we had a good year in basketball."



Osborne was an all-sport standout. He accepts an award on behalf of the Hastings junior baseball team. (Opposite page)
A lanky Tom Osborne (31) carries the pigskin for Hastings College.

Tom Osborne — The Athlete



In track, "I was running the quarter," Osborne said. "I was running it in 49-something and that was pretty good in the state college ranks."

Osborne's first two years of college athletics were more productive than exceptional. Like high school, he really blossomed as a junior.

"I think we were undefeated in football that year until we went down to play William Jewell in the Mineral Water Bowl (in Excelsior Springs, Mo.)," related Osborne.

"They ran the single wing and beat us pretty badly," he recalled. "I'd never seen such big holes. I was playing safety and quarterback and I made about 13 or 14 individual tackles."

According to Osborne, "they were all out of desperation where a guy would come through the line and nobody laid a hand on him until he got to me. I re-

member being in that game and I was just beat to a pulp. It's hard to play both ways."

It's even harder when the opponent "is running something that really confuses you. We'd just never seen anything like the single wing — with all those spinners and buck laterals and all those things."

"The coach that was there for 30 years or so just finished up three or four years ago," Osborne pointed out. "He ran the single wing every year and really did well with it. They'd snap the ball short to the fullback. He'd spin around and you didn't know whether he handed it off or he kept it. They did a lot of trapping and things we'd never seen before."

Tom Osborne has a national reputation as the game's most innovative coach. He does not say if his curiosity was piqued in the Mineral Water Bowl.

He admits, however, that he was an athlete willing to play with pain.

As a junior at Hastings College, Osborne underwent an appendectomy during basketball season. "It kind of slowed me down a bit, but I don't think I missed any games," he said.

Osborne played six days after the surgery against Kearney State, the same kind of collegiate rival that Grand Island was in high school.

"I wanted to play very badly," he admitted. "I had a young doctor who said he'd double-stitch me or something, so I could play quicker. He went to the game and he cleared me to play. He didn't realize, though, how rough basketball really was. He got a little anxious during the game when he really thought about it."

Osborne's performance in that game did not match his desire. "I had a hard time jumping," he recalled. "I think made eight points and probably played two-thirds of the game. At least I was able to play."

Tom Osborne — The Athlete



Again, Osborne (31) on the keeper on a cold, wet day in Hastings.

Although Osborne repeated as State College Athlete of the Year in 1958, he describes his senior year "as kind of frustrating."

"We barely had a winning season in football," he recalled. "Basketball was another winning season, but it wasn't what we'd had. During the four years, we'd done well in the Nebraska College Conference and at that time, Kearney, Wayne, Chadron, Doane and Nebraska Wesleyan were all in it. So it was a reasonably good conference."

Hastings prided itself on competing against Kearney "when they had about 3,000 or 4,000 students and we had about 800. Some of the other state schools were quite a bit bigger," Osborne said. "But we were quite competitive with 'em, particularly in basketball."

Osborne played basketball for Russ

Bogue, who led the Broncos to two appearances in the NAIA national tournament. "He left Hastings a couple years after I did," Osborne said. "He went to Wyoming and got a master's degree, then went down to Fort Hays State in Kansas in its P.E. Dept. McLaughlin died 10 or 12 years ago. He had a bad heart, even when I was playing there."

In the late '50s, weight training was an undiscovered science in athletics and the slender Osborne believes his senior year was disappointing among his standards because his body finally gave out on him.

"I weighed about 185 and playing three sports for four years took a toll," he said. "You just didn't have much recovery time."

Osborne never will forget Hastings' second appearance in the NAIA national basketball tournament.

"We got eliminated on a Thursday or Friday night and when we came back, I was asked to run in a track meet at Doane on a Monday or Tuesday," he recalled.

"I didn't really feel I was ready. I hadn't run track at all. But Coach McLaughlin said they needed the points."

Osborne said he ran the quarter "in about 30-degree weather with snow flurries in the air. After I ran that quarter, I was never so sick in my life. It was like three or four hours before I could even raise my head up. That cold air had gotten into my lungs and I wasn't in shape for that kind of thing. I even got a couple calcium deposits in my legs from charlie horses."

Since Osborne also had spent most of the football and basketball season nursing a shoulder injury, "I felt like I should have had a fife and a drum when I went out to play with all the taping and everything we

Tom Osborne — The Athlete

did," he said.

That final year of small college football, "I started on offense, started on defense and was running back punts. Sometimes, I even ran back kickoffs," Osborne said.

At Hastings, he felt the need to do everything he could for the sake of the team.

"The greatest game we ever played in college was against Kearney my junior year," he recalled. "Kearney had won 20-some straight games and they were favored to beat us, even though they came to Hastings.

"We had 'em down 26-to-nothing at half, but I just didn't know if we'd be able to hold up. We only had about 14 or 15 players — guys we really thought could play. Kearney always had more players and more depth. I was just hoping we could find a way to finish it out."

The Broncos found it. They beat Kearney State, 26-6, that year. Naturally, Osborne played every minute of that game. "When you don't have anybody else to play, you end up playing almost more than you can," he said.

Still, "it was fun," Osborne said. "I enjoyed Hastings College. I was able to get good grades because I did all my studying at home. I didn't have to deal with the sometimes noisy and restless dormitory life."

A quarter-century later, Osborne sees the good and the bad in that type of experience.

"In retrospect, I don't know if it was particularly good for me," he admitted. "Going away to school might have been better for me. If Hastings had been anywhere else, I would have been very glad to go. I was just so indoctrinated by being around Hastings College, it was natural to end up there."

Getting the chance to play pro football, however, surprised Osborne.

"I got some occasional letters from people in pro football, but I didn't really think I'd get a chance to play," he said. "They only had about 12 or 14 teams in pro football at the time and the San Francisco 49ers drafted me in the 19th round."

They drafted Osborne on a tip from Lynn "Pappy" Waldorf, their chief scout and the brother of John Waldorf, the former Big Eight supervisor of officials.

"I guess John had officiated that Mineral Water Bowl and told his brother about me," Osborne said.

"I was pretty lucky," he added. "At that time, I don't even know if pro scouts came to the University of Nebraska. I think they operated more or less by word of mouth."

And the word was, Tom Osborne could

play. So he went to the 49er training camp at St. Mary's College near Oakland.

Before he left, Osborne wondered how he'd do. "After our seasons would end at Hastings, I'd drive to Lincoln and watch the university play," he recalled. "On a couple occasions, I got to watch Nebraska and Oklahoma. I'd wish that I was out there and wonder how I'd do. But I never had any major regrets about going to Hastings."

Part of the reason, "was Nebraska was struggling so much at the time," Osborne said. "They'd gone through two or three coaches during that period. It was never a case where I looked back. I'm glad the chance to play pro football came along, though, because I always would have wondered if I could compete with really top athletes."

In the late summer of 1959, Osborne remembers arriving at the 49er training camp and reaching a mathematical conclusion at the same time.

"They carried 36 players on their active roster as opposed to the 49 they carry now," he said. "I remember they had exactly 36 veterans back in camp and 60 or 70 rookies and free agents trying to find a job."

Osborne surmised he would be one of the least likely to succeed because he reported as a quarterback.

"Red Hickey called me in after a day or two of practice," Osborne recalled. "He told me they had two quarterbacks — John Brodie and Y.A. Tittle — and they were only going to keep two. He said if I thought I could beat 'em out to go ahead and if not, they'd sure be glad to try me somewhere else."

Osborne said he could tell by the tone of his voice "that his mind was made up and I was just a marked man if I stayed at quarterback. So I told him I'd try receiver."

At the time, Osborne also had serious doubts about that possibility. "They had some great receivers — Billy Williams, R.C. Owens and Clyde Connor. They also just moved Hugh McElhenny from running back to receiver and Fred Dugan, their No. 1 draft choice, was a receiver."

Quick calculation told Osborne he was fighting similar odds. The 49ers were only going to keep five receivers and he was looking at five good to great ones before he walked on the practice field.

Undaunted, Osborne went anyway. "It was tight," he said. "But I hung around and they finally put me on the taxi squad that first year. They had 36 on the regular squad and four or five guys extra. We practiced with the team and made the out-

of-town trips. We just couldn't suit up for the games."

Another member of that 49er taxi squad was Jack Kemp, who went on to star at quarterback for the Buffalo Bills. Kemp, now a New York Congressman, is the father of Jeff Kemp, the Los Angeles Ram quarterback.

"Jack and I roomed together on the road," related Osborne. "I got to know him pretty well. It was an interesting year, just being around him and the rest of the team."

According to Osborne, "the players used to kid Jack and make fun of him because he read *Time Magazine* and they thought he was a little too intellectual.

"Even at that time, Jack was very conservative," Osborne recalled. "I remember he liked to read Ayn Rand and he put me on to two or three of her books. I read 'em, plus some other things he was interested in, like economic theory. Jack never talked much about being a politician, but it doesn't surprise me he's ended up doing what he's done."

In addition to hanging on that year with the 49ers, "I joined the Army," Osborne said. "It was either be drafted and go in for two years or join and go in for six months."

Since "I wanted to keep playing pro football, I joined right after the season. I went down to Fort Ord near Carmel, about 100 miles south of San Francisco, and enlisted in the Army Reserve."

That meant six months of active duty. Two months were spent in basic training "marching and shooting and all those kind of things," Osborne said.

And four months were spent as a clerk-typist "because I knew how to type."

Osborne went to Fort Ord with Eddie Dove, the former Colorado player who was also a member of the 49er team.

The six months helped both keep their jobs with the 49ers. But the Army Reserve also meant "six more years of meetings and summer camps and weekends after those six months were over," Osborne pointed out.

Still, it was the right decision and the only decision, considering the circumstances. "If I would have gone in the Army for two years, I would have been finished with football and I didn't want to do that," Osborne said.

He got out of the Army Reserve in time to report to another 49er training camp.

"I played quite a bit in that training camp," Osborne recalled. "They really gave me a good shot. I played in a lot of
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NEBRASKA

*Nebraska finally broke the spell
— Oklahoma hasn't tasted a
victory over the Cornhuskers since
1980. From 1981 on, this is how
it was done....*

By Mike Babcock

Mike Rozier
(30) ran
Oklahoma
ragged last year
in the rain as
the Huskers
won their third
straight in the
series.



The image will forever be vivid in the minds of Nebraska football fans.

Billy Todd kicking off for the Cornhuskers, after his 24-yard field goal had given them a 17-14 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Kelly Phelps, an Oklahoma freshman, fielding the ball near his own 19-yard line, but almost before he can take one step forward, he's hit by Nebraska's John Ruud. In an instant, Phelps and the ball are separated, the violence of the tackle sending the ball five yards in the opposite direction, where it's smothered by the Huskers.

Phelps is helped from the field, his season ended by a shoulder separation. The ball, ruled dead by the officials, is returned

to Oklahoma.

That fumble, nullified by what Nebraska considered an incorrect call, wasn't included in the game's statistics. They showed the Sooners' having lost six of nine fumbles.

But Ruud's jarring tackle and Phelps' fumble, characterize that game, played on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 11, 1978, before 76,015 fans at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln and a national television audience on ABC.

"You can't beat Oklahoma with a push-and-pull team," Nebraska defensive coordinator Lance Van Zandt said after the fourth-rated Cornhuskers had posted their 17-14 upset victory over the nation's No. 1 team. "If you want to beat 'em, you'd



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The hitting, the intensity and the fan involvement are all obvious in this bit of goal-line action from the 1980 game in Lincoln.

better strike 'em on every play."

That's exactly what Nebraska did.

"There was a lot of aggressive gang-tackling. Most of the time, you won't cause a fumble on the first hit. You have to get it on the second and third hits to really pop the ball loose," said Cornhusker defensive end George Andrews.

The senior co-captain carried the nickname "Smiling Assassin," an appropriate description of the big Omahan, who now plays for the National Football League Los Angeles Rams.

NU defensive ends Coach George Darlington explained, above the clamor of the post-game locker room celebration: "George Andrews would never harm a flea off the field. He'd never do anything illegal, either.

"But you'd better not ever get in his way because he'll come at you with both barrels blazing.

"To a great extent, Oklahoma quit running to the side where Andrews was charging hard on a crash. One time, he decked the fullback, and one time he tackled the quarterback. Oklahoma's not stupid. Finally, they decided to heck with that stuff and started running away from him," Darlington said.

"We attacked them from everywhere," Andrews said. "We didn't read anything or 'slow play' the quarterback. We just came at them and made them think as fast as they could."

Nebraska didn't stop muscling the Sooners until they had fumbled for the ninth, and final, time. Heisman Trophy candidate Billy Sims took a pitchout from Thomas Lott and circled his right side,

reaching the three-yard line before Cornhusker safety Jeff Hansen could get to him.

Hansen made the hit, the ball came loose, and NU monster back Jim Pillen smothered it, and with it, a share of the conference title and a trip to the Orange Bowl — 1:16 remained in the game. "When I saw that 1:16 on the clock and no more timeouts for Oklahoma, I could start to feel the sand sifting through my toes," said Pillen.

The senior from Monroe was chosen the Defensive Player of the Game by ABC television for his aggressive play. "I don't know if Oklahoma really respected us before the game, but I guarantee they respect us now," Pillen said. "They made me look like a fool a few times but they had to take a lot of nasty strikes from everyone on this team."

Linebacker Bruce Dunning, a walkon who was once encouraged by the coaches to give up football, lead Nebraska in strikes. He was credited with 19 tackles.

To understand the elation Nebraska's players felt that cold, gray afternoon in 1978 is to know the recent history of the Cornhusker series with Oklahoma. The 17-14 victory was NU head Coach Tom Osborne's first over Oklahoma and Sooner head Coach Barry Switzer, after five frustrating losses.

In 1973, Osborne's first season as head coach, Nebraska lost at Norman, 27-0. In 1975, the Cornhuskers went to Norman undefeated and returned to Lincoln with a humiliating, 35-10 loss that sent them to the Fiesta Bowl and further humiliation.

Nebraska lost to Oklahoma at Lincoln in 1974, by 28-14, and in 1976, when the

wily Sooners used two surprise pass plays and Elvis Peacock's touchdown with only 38 seconds left to escape Memorial Stadium with a 20-17 victory.

The 1977 game in Norman was no contest — Oklahoma 38, Nebraska 7.

All the frustration that had built up during those five seasons, as well as a 17-14 loss in Bob Devaney's final season, was released in 1978. "They got the living daylights knocked out of 'em," said Cornhusker linebackers Coach John Melton.

"You have to hit 'em hard to make 'em fumble. Maybe last year we didn't hit 'em hard enough. Maybe we didn't hit 'em hard enough the year before, or the year before that.

"This year we decided we were going to go after them, and either they were going to beat us 60-0, or we were going to get them. It's probably been a few years since they got hit like they got hit today."

After Sims had fumbled for the final time, Hansen, Pillen, and defensive tackle Dan Pensick jumped for joy, a scene captured for what has become a familiar photograph, hung in the dens of Cornhusker faithful.

Nebraska 17, Oklahoma 14.

The image will forever be vivid in the minds of Nebraska football fans.

Oklahoma and Nebraska entered the 1978 game as the top two offensive teams in the country. The Cornhuskers had rolled to eight straight victories after a 20-3, opening-game loss to Bear Bryant and Alabama at Legion Field in Birmingham, while the Sooners had been pushed only twice, beating Stanford in their opener, 35-29, and slipping past Kansas, 17-16.

Oklahoma didn't waste much time getting on the scoreboard. After Nebraska held the Sooners on their first possession, three downs and punt, they went 70 yards in four plays to score.

Running out of the vaunted wishbone, fullback Kenny King bolted 17 yards; Sims got seven yards total on the next two plays, then broke loose on a 44-yard touchdown run. Uwe von Schamann kicked the extra point, and with 8:09 remaining in the first quarter, Oklahoma led, 7-0.

Nebraska appeared destined to fall farther behind five plays later when quarterback Tom Sorley passed to tight end Junior Miller, who couldn't hold the ball and watched as Sooner linebacker George Cumby intercepted.

Hansen recovered an Oklahoma fumble early in the second quarter to set up Nebraska's first touchdown. The Cornhuskers drove 57 yards in 10 plays, including Sorley passes to Miller and I-back Rick Berns and Isaiah Hipp's 10-yard run.

Berns covered the final five yards; Todd kicked the extra point, and with 10:06 left in the half, the score was tied. It was still tied at the intermission even though a 24-yard pass from Sorley to split end Tim Smith put Nebraska at the OU four-yard line. Todd missed a short field goal attempt with six seconds remaining in the period.

A Pensick hit produced another Sims fumble, which was recovered by Cornhusker defensive end Derrie Nelson at the 50-yard line early in the third quarter. A 33-yard pass from Sorley to Miller accounted for most of the yards as Nebraska drove to another touchdown.

Hipp covered the final eight yards; Todd kicked another extra point, and with 9:25 remaining in the quarter, the Cornhuskers led, 14-7. It was the first time all season that Oklahoma had been behind.

Before the third quarter was over, Sims had raced 30 yards for the Sooners' second touchdown, and after a von Schamann extra-point kick, the score was tied at 14.

Todd's game-winning field goal, with 11:51 remaining in the fourth quarter, was set up by a 57-yard drive which included a pair of third-down conversions, one a 21-yard pass from Sorley to Frank Lockett, the other a 12-yard run by fullback Andra Franklin.

Berns, a lanky senior from Wichita Falls, Texas, who led Nebraska in rushing, with 117 yards in 25 carries, sat by his locker after the game with a red bandana wrapped around his head, in imitation of Lott, Oklahoma's flamboyant quarterback.

The tape on his wrists was spattered with blood. The mustache, always there before, was missing.

"I hate to say I'm superstitious, but I had a mustache the other times we played (Oklahoma), so I shaved it off this time," Berns said.

He talked like the Cornhusker Black Shirts. The Sooners "have never been hit that hard before," he said. "They'd get up from the piles, shaking their heads. We knew we could out-physical them, and our offensive line was doing a super job of firing out.

"Before they (the Sooner defenders) even made contact, we were two or three

yards down the field."

Nebraska's offensive line was anchored by All-America tackle Kelvin Clark. "We just started wearing them down," said Clark.

According to guard Barney Cotton, who sent Oklahoma's All-America linebacker Daryl Hunt crashing to the artificial turf on the game's first scrimmage play: "We said all week we were going to run right at them.

"They lined up in a goal line defense, a six-man front, all day, and we said, 'Here we come. We're going all the way.' I don't think they believed it. In fact, I said to one of them, 'You don't believe me, do you?'"

Cornhusker center Kelly Saalfeld held his own against Oklahoma middle guard

Reggie Kinlaw and made a believer out of the Sooner All-American. "My roommate told me he'd seen an interview with Kinlaw on television, and Kinlaw said he didn't think I was very good. I didn't see it, but it gave me a personal incentive," Saalfeld said.

"Our whole offensive line went into the game with the attitude that they would have to show us they could stop us up the middle. They knew what was coming. They lined up with two guys tight on my shoulders, and we still came right at them."

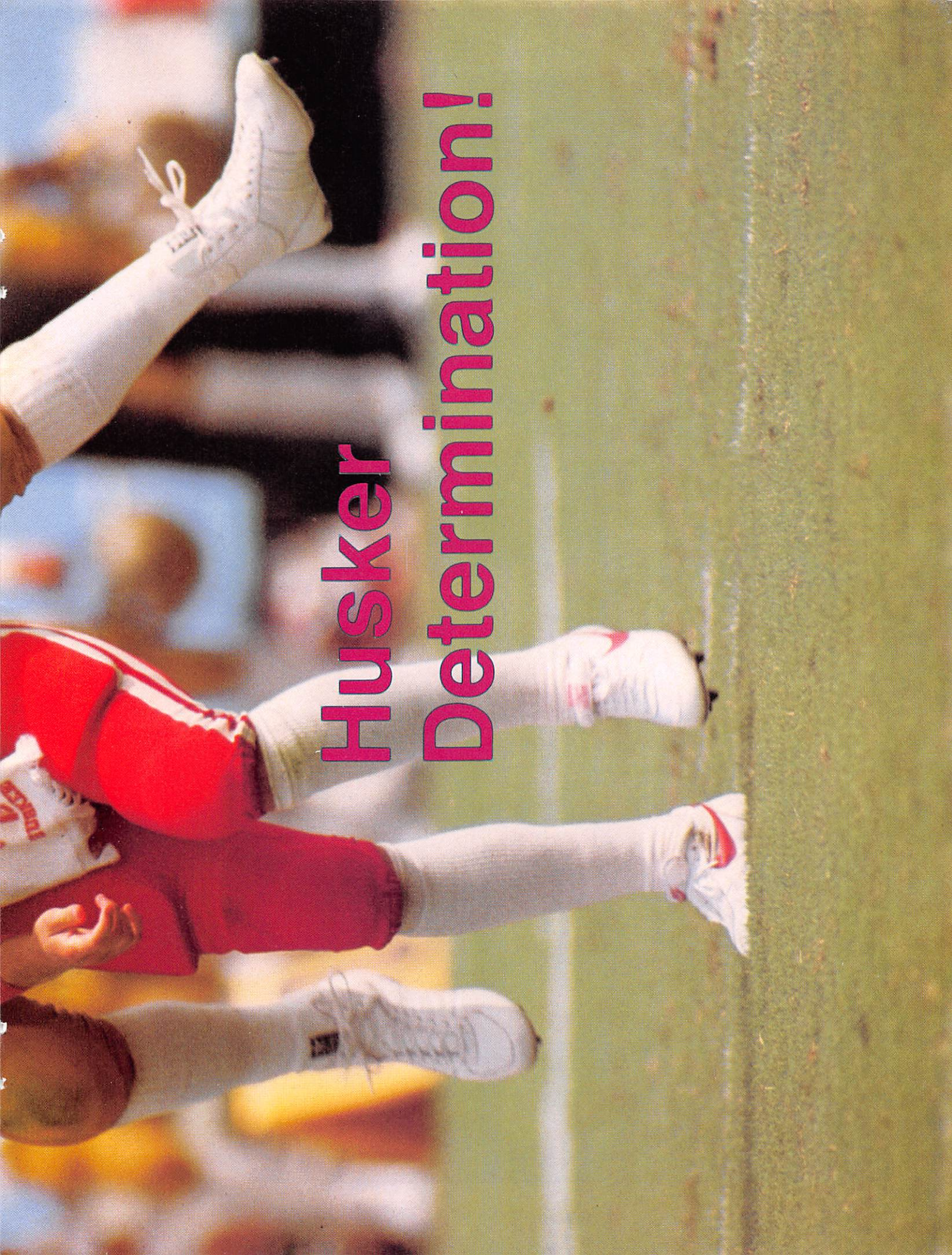
Switzer wasn't surprised by Nebraska's offensive plan. "They ran exactly like I thought they would," he said. "They're a big, strong offensive team, and they run

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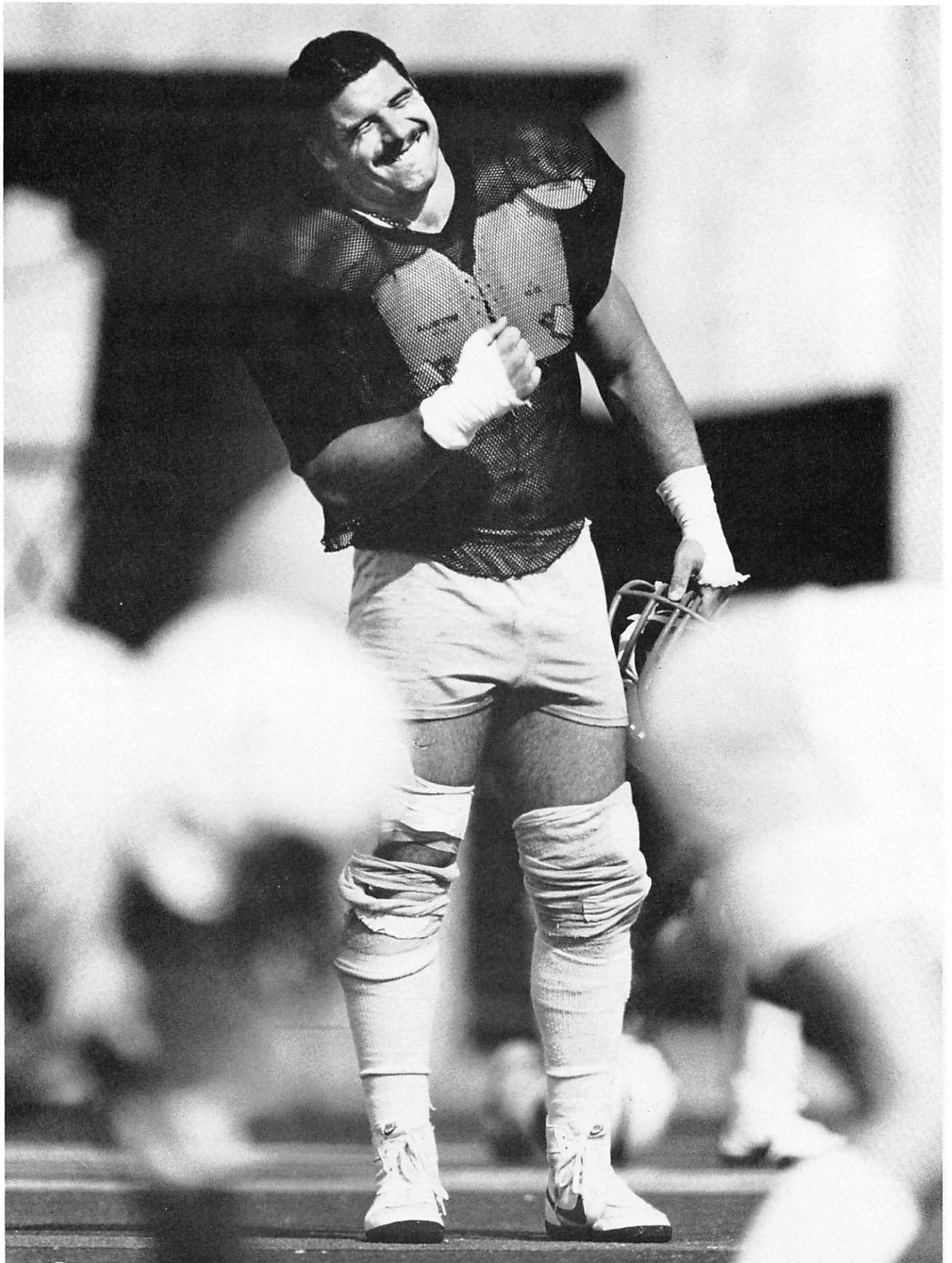


Kevin Seibel recovered this fumble in Norman to help the Huskers to a rout in this 1981 contest.





Husker Determination!



Just One Of The Boys....

....In The Bar. The Minnesota native walked on at Nebraska and is now considered the spiritual leader of the Black Shirts.

Ken Graeber

Every clique in high school has its fondest memory, its wildest and wooliest moment, a proven "gutbuster" to recall whenever it gathers a few years later at a reunion.

Ken Graeber, Nebraska's senior middle guard, did not have to say "Remember when...?" during his reunion with the "Boys in the Bar" the weekend the Huskers handled Minnesota, 38-7.

Graeber, the former walkon from Minneapolis, got his biggest laugh from his favorite tale.

It came from Jim Shoemaker, one of his best friends in "The Boys in the Bar," a group of 10 outcast prep football players at Armstrong High School in Minneapolis.

"The Boys in the Bar" named themselves after listening to a honkytonk song by Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys in Graeber's basement.

Shoemaker was the middle guard on that Armstrong team that lost the 1980 Minnesota state high school football championship, 14-13, to Columbia Heights, another Minneapolis suburban school.

Graeber was the defensive tackle who started next to Shoemaker.

The two teammates would set and check traps for raccoons and muskrat before school and after football practice.

Even though Graeber carries the nickname "Grape Nuts," he claims Shoemaker was crazier, and nuttier, than he was, or is.

If we're building drama for the Shoemaker story, it's only because this story deserves it, almost demands it.

"Shoemaker was a tough guy with long hair," Graeber recalled. "He was so different, if he found a dead animal in his trap line before school, he'd bring it and put it in his locker so he could show everyone."

But that's not the funniest story. That's not the "gutbuster" that had six of the 10 "Boys in the Bar" rolling next to the fire they built near the Missouri River when they came back to watch Graeber play against his home state.

"One time, Shoemaker told me he had a nice coon (raccoon) in his car trunk at school," Graeber recalled. "It was the biggest one he'd ever trapped — about 30 pounds. It was so big, the trap didn't kill it. Shoe had to hit it on the head with a billy club — a sawed-off bat with lead in the end."

Shoemaker "kept building this coon up in school all day," Graeber recalled. Finally, after school, Graeber went out to the car with him for a first-hand inspection.

"It was the funniest thing I've ever seen," Graeber said. "Shoe lifted up that trunk and this huge coon was standing up on its feet, hissing at us. Shoemaker hadn't

killed him at all. He'd just thumped him in the head and knocked him out."

Even though the raccoon "had come to and could get up and walk, you could tell he didn't have all his energy," Graeber said.

But instead of closing the trunk and deciding what to do, a wild-eyed Shoemaker reacted instinctively. "He took his hand and slugged it and killed it," Graeber said. "I couldn't believe it."

Even if it is a rather violent story that would upset an environmentalist, "The Boys in the Bar" were not designed as a violent group.

"The name has nothing to do with drinking or anything," Graeber said. "We were just the only guys in our school who liked country-western music. We never went to parties, but we spent almost every

if you were lucky. It made you feel like a hobo. It was greatness. There's no better feeling than getting up the next morning and cooking eggs over the fire."

The experience made Graeber "feel like you didn't waste the weekend. We'd all get up and feel like we'd really done something. We were all ready to start another week — go back to school and go back to practice."

Six of the 10 members from "The Boys in the Bar" visited Lincoln for the Minnesota game.

Shoemaker, of course, was one of them. He made the trip with another "Boys in the Bar" member from Mankato State.

Dave Nash, the quarterback on that 1980 Armstrong team, now attends the University of Minnesota. But as a devout member of "The Boys in the Bar," he

about losing one of their best. But they weren't about to ostracize Shoemaker even more.

In a way, the outcasts thrived on their ability to be different.

"When we were in high school, all the seniors either went to the beach in Corpus Christi or Fort Lauderdale," Graeber recalled.

"The Boys in the Bar went fishing in the Louisiana swamp," he pointed out. "The others all came back with neat tans. We came back with bass so large you could cram your fist into their mouths."

"The Boys in the Bar" have remained remarkably close after their high school graduation. They gather every summer at Shoemakers' secluded log cabin in Northern Minnesota. Two years ago, they went fishing in Oklahoma.

"The Boys in the Bar" talked about more than football. They talked about fishing and hunting and trapping and all the fun times that went with all those fun things.

weekend together. We were all great lovers of the outdoors."

Because of that bond, "The Boys in the Bar" shared what Graeber considers priceless moments of quality companionship.

According to Graeber, Plymouth "was the last suburb in Minneapolis. We were almost 25 miles outside the city. We were close to legal hunting grounds."

And close to the woods, where "The Boys in the Bar" gathered every weekend to spend innocent outdoor fun.

"We had a campsite way back in the woods," Graeber said. "You could only drive so far, then you had to walk through the tall grass. A firepit was dug and we'd build a fire."

"We'd go there and stay till midnight. Every other weekend, we'd take our sleeping bags and stay all night. Parties were so phony. We entertained ourselves."

"The Boys in the Bar" talked about more than football. They talked about fishing and hunting and trapping and all the fun times that went with all those fun things.

"There's no way you could get in trouble where we were," Graeber said. "Our campsite was near the railroad tracks. We'd sleep by the fire, look up at the stars and listen for the trains to come by. You'd always hear one train . . . two

came to Lincoln in support of Graeber.

So did Brad Lenarz, who went to North Dakota on a football scholarship before a knee injury sent him to the sidelines.

"Brad was a great linebacker in high school and at North Dakota," Graeber said. "I guarantee he could have played at Nebraska. He's that good."

"The Boys in the Bar" and their teammates had to be good to reach the AA state championship game, the highest prep classification in Minnesota.

The memory of that game in Parade Stadium is still vivid. "It snowed two feet that day," Graeber recalled. "It was so cold, we built a fire on the sideline from some broken bleachers. When they shoveled the snow off, there was still a half an inch of ice. It was just a skating match out there the whole game."

And Columbia Heights outskated Armstrong. "We were ahead, 13-8," Graeber recalled. "Then they threw an 80-yard touchdown pass in the last three minutes to beat us."

Graeber played the whole game at noseguard for Shoemaker, the practical joker whose antics finally caught up with him. "He was suspended from school the week of the state championship game, so he couldn't play," Graeber said.

"The Boys in the Bar" weren't happy

The night of the Minnesota game, they were determined to get in the car and start driving. All they wanted was a dirt road, another dirt road, a nice ravine, a nice set of woods and a nice place to build a fire. All they wanted was a good place to sit down, take a good dip of Copenhagen and talk, not drink.

"I'm down on drinking and getting drunk," Graeber said. "There are too many ways to enjoy life. These guys (The Boys in the Bar) are all smart, all witty, all funny. Some of 'em could be professional comedians. You're guaranteed to split a gut at least once or twice a night."

That's funny. But Rob Stuckey, Nebraska's senior defensive tackle, says the same thing about Ken Graeber.

"That guy could be a professional comedian," Stuckey said. "I've known him for five years and he gets me to laughing my head off."

Stuckey rooms with Graeber on Husker road trips. "I remember the K-State game when we were juniors. I almost didn't get any sleep," Stuckey said. "He could be in the entertainment business and make a million. He keeps me rolling in the aisles."

And he does it, Stuckey said, with "an abstract sense of humor."

Which brings us to an important point. Yes, Ken Graeber turned down a full foot-

ball scholarship at Iowa after the Minnesota Shrine game to walk on — unrecruited — at Nebraska.

But he is not dumb. He is, in fact, one of the brightest students ever to play football for the Huskers in the respected opinion of Dr. Ursula Walsh, NU's academic counselor.

With faded jeans tucked into cowboy boots and a day's growth of beard, Graeber always manages to look pretty bedraggled and unscholarly.

But he shattered that image in a hurry. When he was a freshman, he took Math 106, a calculus course with a reputation for being "pretty tough," according to Dr. Jack Eidswick, the professor who teaches it.

Eidswick admitted he was "a little concerned" when Graeber developed this

Tulsa. Graeber's brother and sister both attended Oklahoma.

Nebraska's reputation for fair treatment of walkons lured him to Lincoln.

"I just called Nebraska up one day and asked about the walkon program," he recalled. "Then I sent 'em some films."

Eventually, NU freshman Coach Frank Solich called back and told Graeber he was welcome, if he was still interested.

That was encouragement enough for Graeber, the former Minnesota state high school heavyweight wrestling champion.

"My dad thought I could play here," he said. "When Iowa offered after the Shrine game, I'd already made up my mind to walk on."

By that time, Solich "had shown a lot of interest" in Graeber as a walkon and the mere thought of making it as a Husker was

Mike Tranmer was a senior and Graeber wanted him to start."

To McBride, that's sacrifice. "That's the kind of player Graeber is...one who thinks less of himself. That's the kind of player we need."

This season, Graeber has continued to be the self-sacrificing, team-oriented anchor in the middle.

And even though he's not a captain, his teammates appreciate him. They dedicated the Minnesota game to him and NU Coach Tom Osborne made a rare presentation. He gave Graeber the game ball.

Even though he insisted he played "an average game," Graeber was honored, at least in part, for a great week of practice.

"Grape Nuts went nuts," McBride said. "He's supposed to take the dive. But he was trying to take the quarterback, the

"I'm down on drinking and getting drunk," Graeber said. "There are too many ways to enjoy life. These guys are all smart, all witty....You're guaranteed to split a gut at least once or twice a night."

habit of leaving the class 10 minutes early. Then Eidswick gave his first major exam to the 120 students in the class.

Graeber got one of the two perfect scores and he has never looked back in his pursuit for a degree in mechanical engineering. The 3.6 grade-point-average he used to get as a freshman and sophomore are now 3.1s. "But I'm maintaining it," Graeber said.

Make no mistake. This man is serious about his studies, serious enough that he visited Dartmouth in the Ivy League before deciding to walk on at Nebraska.

Even though Graeber thinks football is overemphasized at Nebraska, he thinks it's underemphasized in the Ivy League. He said playing football in a league "that doesn't draw any better crowds than some high schools do" didn't appeal to him.

Neither did playing in the Big 10 for the Hawkeyes, a Johnny-Come-Lately in his recruitment.

Graeber grew up admiring "the wicked football" in the Big Eight Conference. He was born in Tulsa and never missed a Nebraska-Oklahoma game, even when his family moved to Minnesota.

When the Husker-Sooner shootout was in Lincoln, he watched on television. When it was in Norman, he went to the game with an uncle, who still lives in

infinitely more appealing than joining a Hawkeye program that Hayden Fry had not overhauled.

"You've got to remember, when Iowa offered, they were still losing," Graeber pointed out. "My dad really wanted me to go to Nebraska anyway. It was half his idea. He was sold on the honesty of the program."

Even though Graeber's father is part-owner of a machine shop, he is not wealthy. But he was interested enough to drive his son down to an NU scrimmage and the spring game "when I was finishing my senior year in high school," Graeber said.

The organization, combined with the desire to treat all men equal, convinced the Graebers the Huskers were the ones.

"Grape Nuts," the nickname pinned on him by NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride, has been more than a wild and crazy guy in the middle of the Husker defense.

He has been a spiritual leader of the entire Black Shirts.

"It's a cliché, but there's no 'I' in team," McBride said, using Graeber as his classic example.

"Really, you could count him as a returning starter this year," McBride said. "He was going to start the Orange Bowl against Miami. But he wouldn't do it.

fullback and the pitch man. It was Coach Osborne's fault. He's the one who says you play like you practice."

"Grape Nuts" plays like he lives.

"He's just totally uninhibited," offered Stuckey. "It's kind of refreshing to see someone like that."

Last January, after Nebraska lost the national championship to Miami in the Orange Bowl, Graeber and NU offensive guard Harry Grimmering "were as dejected and bummed out as anybody," Stuckey recalled.

"They were watching a real class singer in a real class lounge in our hotel the next day. Finally, Graeber just picked the guy up and carried him off the stage and Harry grabbed the microphone and started singing the latest country tune.

"They didn't hurt anybody and everybody got a charge out of it," Stuckey said. "It was good clean fun."

Not surprisingly, Grimmering is sort of an honorary member of "The Boys in the Bar." He's stayed with Shoemaker in Minneapolis and fished near his cabin.

"I don't even want to hear some of the stories from that crew," McBride said. "But I don't know what I'm going to do without Graeber. Wherever he goes, I think I'm going to go with him." ♦

Duke Transfer

Bill Jackman

expected to bring boost to Husker cagers in quest of first ever Big Eight title.

If Dave Hoppen was the resurrection for Nebraska's basketball program, Bill Jackman could be the second coming.

Now that the Huskers have a bona fide All-Big Eight center, fans are expecting the 6-foot-8½ Jackman to relieve his share of the pressure and join Hoppen in the conference spotlight.

And that may well happen.

But NU Coach Moe Iba and Jackman are issuing caution similar to that delivered when Hoppen signed his national letter of intent — don't expect too much too soon.

"Bill wants to be a basketball player awfully bad," Iba said. "If people just give him a chance to develop and don't expect too much to start with, he's going to do all right. In time, he'll be a great player. But I'm not going to set any unrealistic goals in his first year."

Jackman shares that philosophical concern as Nebraska prepares to present a serious challenge for its first Big Eight basketball championship in history.

"To be honest, I don't think I'm as good as people think I am. I know I'm not," said Jackman, who worked out with the Huskers last year after spending his freshman season at Duke.

"People only remember you by your last game and the last game they saw me play was the best game of my life," Jackman said.

He was referring to Grant's 71-59 win

over Ewing in the 1982 Class C championship game of the Nebraska State High School Basketball Tournament.

Jackman scored 35 points in that game, dunked the ball five times, became the all-time leading scorer in Nebraska state tournament history and drew more than one expert's opinion that he was the greatest prep player in Nebraska history.

When Jackman decided to transfer from Duke and return home, it commanded as much media attention as Hoppen's heralded signature.

It was the basketball version of a Vince Ferragamo transferring from California. Here comes a glamor name from a glamor school. Show us what you can do, Bill. Show the world.

"People remember how dominant Bill was in high school," Iba said. "But playing in the Big Eight is not going to be like playing at Grant. I don't know how much he actually played at Duke as a freshman. But any time you lay out a year in basketball, it's going to take awhile to come back."

In other words, instant pressure is not the ideal way to create instant success.

Jackman can do without all these great expectations.

"I've never worried about those things before. But they've just hit me in the last few weeks," he said in mid-September.

"It's great to have a positive attitude, but

people are just so high," Jackman said. "They're saying wild stuff — like winning a Big Eight championship. Some of my friends are even talking NCAA Tournament — not just making it, but doing well in it."

But amidst all those sugar-coated thoughts, Bill Jackman has come to one conclusion.

"If we do all those things, it'll be because of Dave Hoppen, not because of me," he said. "He's not flaky. I don't have to be flaky. My job is to fit in the best way I can. The biggest anticipation should be how well the team plays, not how well I play."

Iba, obviously, agrees and he's anxious to see how the Huskers load their ammunition for their first three home games — Nov. 29 against Southern Colorado, Dec. 1 against South Dakota and Dec. 3 against Montana State.

Throughout an 18-12 season that ended with a 58-57 loss to Xavier in the NIT, it was no secret how to stop the Huskers last year — stop Hoppen.

The 6-11 sophomore faced unbelievable defensive pressure, mostly from sagging zone defenses that allowed opponents to double-team him.

Still, Hoppen scored 598 points (two short of the NU single-season record). He averaged 19.9 points and 6.9 rebounds a game and shot 59.9 percent from the field.

His .594 field goal marksmanship in

conference games broke the Big Eight record set the previous year by Missouri's Steve Stipanovich.

"I remember when I played at Duke, some of my teammates watched Hoppen play on television and they said there was no way he could play in the ACC," Jackman offered.

"Well, I've played with them and I've played with Dave and I can definitely say he can play with anyone," Jackman said. "I know he's not flashy. But you don't have to be flashy. He's always going to get his 20 points. I think he's the second best player in the conference."

Iba also rates Hoppen behind only one other player in the conference — Oklahoma's Wayman Tisdale, "the best player in the country," according to Iba.

"David gives us a bona fide all-conference player and a probable All-America candidate," Iba said.

"I don't think there are very many centers in the country better than Dave Hoppen," added Iba. "But I don't think it's a question of how good Hoppen can be. It's a question of how good the players around him will be."

Iba is expecting them to be good. "Overall, we may have better athletes than last year," he said. "We'll be a little quicker and we'll definitely be a better rebounding team. Those two things should help us be a better defensive team...and a better offensive team."

When Iba looks at his returning talent, he sees a lot of familiar faces. They include:

Brian Carr, a 6-1 sophomore guard from Muncie, Ind. Even though he didn't start a game last year, he is likely to inherit the quarterback duties from the departed David Poncé. Even though most of his 114 field goal attempts came from the outside, Carr shot 51.8 percent from the floor last season. His 78 assists trailed only the 116 handed out by Ponce and the 82 delivered by Stan Cloudy, the shooting forward Jackman could replace in the starting lineup. "Brian's biggest adjustment will be handling the ball more," Iba said. "We didn't put him in that role last year."

John Matzke, a 6-7 junior forward and Academic All-Big Eight selection from Lincoln. After coming off a red-shirt season, he started 21 games for the Huskers last season and shot 56.7 percent from the field. While Hoppen toured Europe with an NIT all-star team this past summer, Matzke toured the Far East with Athletes in Action. He has a 3.78 average on a 4.0 scale in math education.

Ronnie Smith, a 6-9 senior from Galveston, Texas. A "diamond in the rough" who came to Nebraska with basically 1½ years of experience in competitive basketball, he replaced Matzke in the starting lineup late in the season at power for-

ward. He started nine games, shot .532 from the field for the season and .652 while starting eight of NU's final nine games of the season. In addition to playing forward, Smith also backs up Hoppen at center.

Curtis Moore, a 6-4 senior forward from Mount Vernon, N.Y. Despite his limited playing time last season, he came on strong, playing 29 minutes against Kansas State in the first round of the Big Eight Post-Season Tournament and starting for the injured Stan Cloudy in the NIT game at Xavier. A weight problem put Moore on the bench last season. Even at 235, he has good quickness and good body control. "I told Curtis if he didn't weigh 205 this fall, he couldn't practice or go out for the team," Iba said. Moore reported at 205. "It's easier for him to play now," Iba said. "It's like taking 30 pounds of rock off your back."

The Huskers also welcome three more returning lettermen this season — **6-6 sophomore forward Mike Martz, 6-7 sophomore forward Keith Neubert and 6-2 senior guard Anthony White.**

"You look at our team and we haven't written off anybody," Iba said. "Our coaching staff made up our minds that we're going to play the people who work the hardest."

Iba told his players that last spring, "The thing we've got to get back with this team is conditioning," he said. "Better conditioning should help us improve our offensive and defensive rebounding."

"After every game — win, lose or draw — we want to be able to say we worked harder than the other team. I felt we got away from that a little bit last year. If we do it, we have a chance to be successful."

Iba, of course, is counting on more newcomer talent than Jackman to get that transfusion.

Four other 1984 Husker recruits have excellent chances to play this season. They include:

Harvey Marshall, a 6-3 guard who transferred from Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo. NU coaches expect him to be the "big guard" the Huskers have been lacking. A first-team juco All-American, he led Sterling to a 35-5 record and eighth-place finish in the national juco tournament. During the season, he averaged 23 points a game and shot 49 percent from the field. He was the No. 2 scorer in the national tournament with 97 points in four games.

Chris Logan, a 6-5 forward who transferred from Antelope Valley Junior College in Lancaster, Calif. His amazing 41-inch vertical jump helped him average 13.8 rebounds per game last year, second high among all California junior college. Coaches call him a "Louisville-type" forward, who plays bigger than his

size. His leaping ability makes him a flashy player. In addition to setting school single-season and career rebounding records, he averaged 15.0 points and 6.2 assists a game while shooting 54 percent from the field.

Joel Sealer, a 6-2 freshman guard from Omaha. Twice a Super State selection, he led Millard South to back-to-back Class A state basketball championships. As a three-year starter at the school, he set records with 936 points, 363 assists, 161 steals. In his last two years, Millard South won 42 of 49 games. "I'm not saying Joel is great yet, but he's a lot better than people think he is," Iba said. "He can contribute at either guard."

Demetrious Buchanan, a 6-2 guard who transferred from the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, Calif. Like former Husker guard Eric Williams, he's a native of South Bend, Ind. At College of the Sequoias, he averaged 14 points a game last year while shooting 52 percent from the field and 72 percent from the free throw line.

Iba is not a statistics freak, but he's aware of a couple of revealing stats from last season.

In Nebraska's 18 wins, Hoppen shot 65.7 percent from the field. In the 12 losses, that percentage dipped to .522.

Even though Iba thinks that reflects the difference in the defensive pressure, comparing the shooting percentage for the rest of the team is even more revealing.

Last season, the Huskers set a school record by shooting .514 from the field. But when opponents slowed Hoppen and no one picked up the slack, the results were generally disastrous.

In NU's 18 wins, the other 12 players on the roster combined to shoot .545 from the field. In the 12 losses, they shot .404.

Iba knows NU's opponents aren't going to change their strategy on defending the Huskers. The Huskers will have to force them to change.

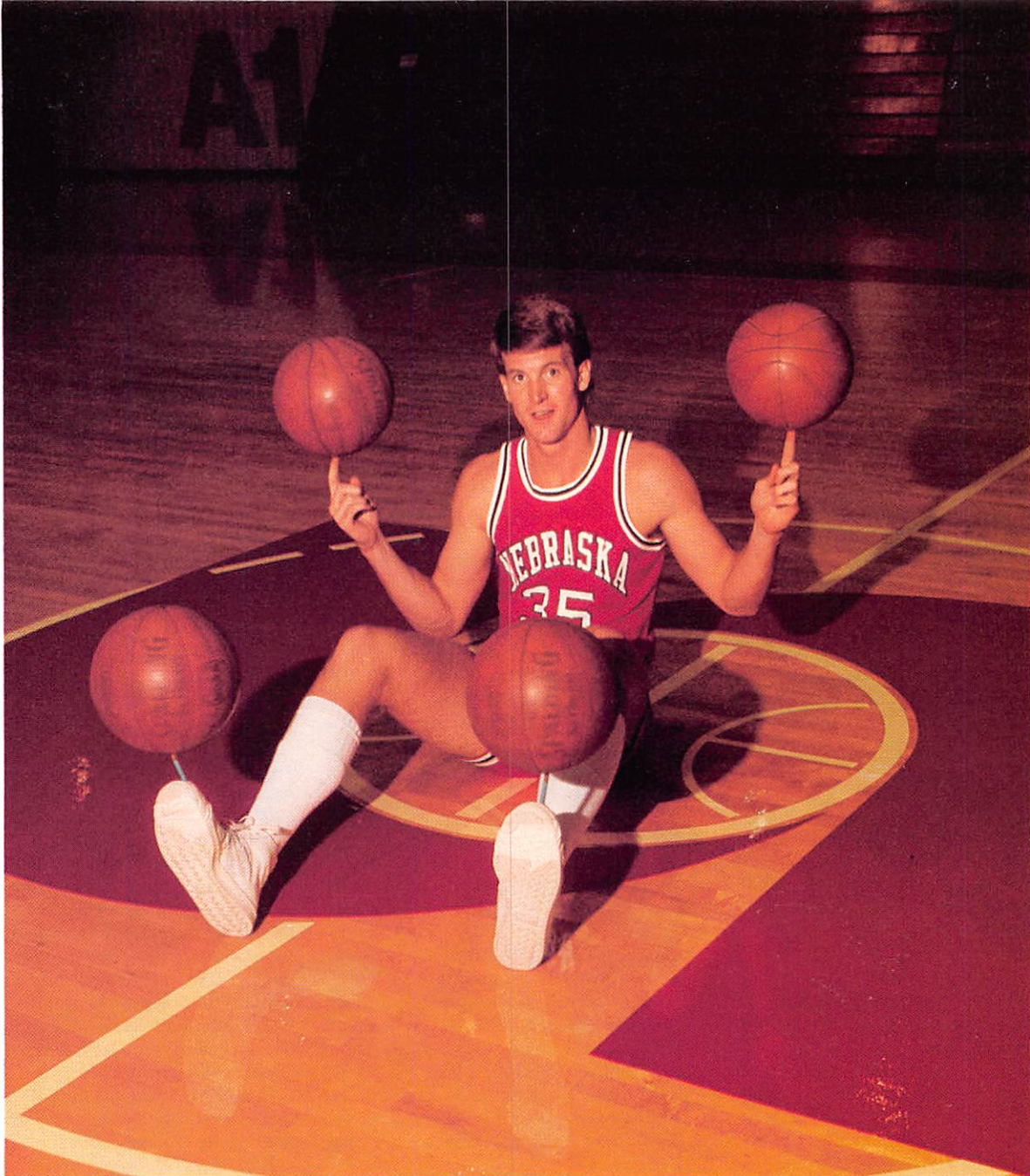
"Right from the very first ball game, they're going to make our other players beat them," Iba predicted.

"Teams are going to make our other players prove themselves before they get off Hoppen," he said. "If we use the 45-second clock and we see different types of zones, it'll be tough for David to score more points than he did last year."

The 'No Stoppin' Hoppen' theme of last year may have to change and Jackman is one of the first to understand it.

"In the past, it's been: 'Go to Hoppen. Go to Hoppen,'" he said. "And we've done quite well with it. But if he's got people sagging all over him, that's what shooters are for."

Despite his size, "Bill Jackman can shoot," Iba said. "He can shoot from a lot of places. But he still has to realize there are



Bill Jackman is expected to balance more than basketballs; he is being touted as All-Big Eight at center.

things he can do and things he can't do. I really don't know what to project. It'll be interesting to see how he progresses through the year."

If Iba is cautiously optimistic, it is only in the best interests of Jackman.

"We've talked about it and we know Bill's going to get a lot of publicity because of the type of player he was in high school," Iba said. "But we've got to be sure he doesn't set any goals that are unreachable in his first year."

Having sat out one year, Jackman has three years of eligibility remaining.

It could have been different. Jackman and Hoppen, after all, were members of the same recruiting class.

Jackman admitted if there was such a thing as a time capsule, where you could go back and change the course of your

own actions, he would see the world in a completely different light.

"It never really hit me until this last year, when I had a chance to play every day with Hoppen. But I was so narrow in my thinking about Nebraska," Jackman said.

Two years ago, Jackman was convinced Duke was the place for him. He was also convinced that Marquette was perfect for Kerry Trotter and Vic Lazarretti of Omaha Creighton Prep and Kansas was nice for Ron Kellogg of Omaha North-west.

"I was never really exposed to Nebraska basketball. We could barely get the games on radio in Grant," Jackman said. "I didn't have that much confidence either."

So Jackman declared his intentions to sign with Duke and started a frustrating, if not puzzling chain of exported talent.

"It hits me over the head now," he said. "If we were all still seniors in high school, I'd get on the phone, call these other guys and talk about what kind of team we could have together."

Since that's impossible, Jackman did the next best thing. He transferred and joined Hoppen himself.

It may be just the 1-2 punch the Huskers have needed.

Iba already has given Jackman the green light "to go coast to coast."

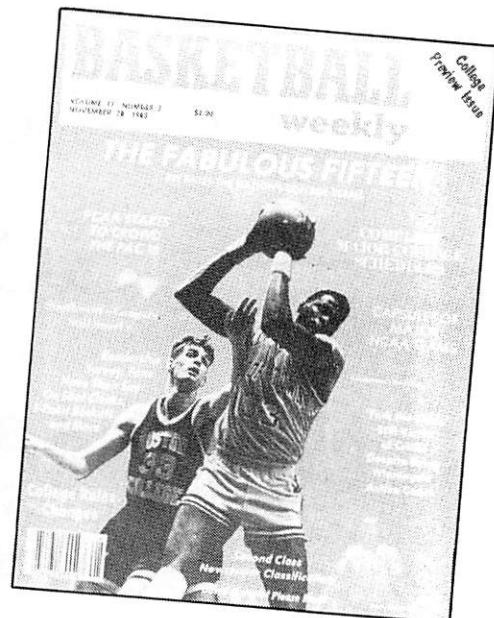
"You don't get many players who are 6-9 and can play out on the floor like he can," Iba said.

Jackman could be just the dimension the Huskers need to challenge Big Eight pre-season favorites Oklahoma and Kansas.

"He can give us some different things."

Continued on page 60

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The Triple-Threat

South Paw

Memories are still vivid for Robert Stephens, Nebraska's starting quarterback in 1926.

By Ross Connelly

Robert Stephens says he doesn't think he would try to play quarterback for the number one ranked University of Nebraska football team were he a college freshman today. Five feet, nine and a half inches is too small.

"Today, I might dream of going out for the special teams," he says. "I could probably be a kicker or do field goals today. The longest (field goal) I kicked was 47 yards against Iowa State."

That was in 1926 when Stephens was the triple-threat, left-handed, starting quarterback for the Nebraska Cornhuskers, and his weight was the same then as it is today. He lettered with the team his junior and senior years and joined General Electric in Schenectady, N.Y. after graduating in 1927. He moved with the company to Holyoke, Mass., in 1955 and still lives there today.

The Hastings, Neb., native, who is now 80, hides his age well, but to look at him is not to see a star football player of years gone by. Stephens' trim build and natty dress, topped with a straw panama, suggest golf or tennis. But as he talks of his youth, any doubt of sport quickly fades. His past accomplishments in an early version of Memorial Stadium provide a solid foundation for his keen interest in today's

proceedings in Lincoln. In fact, he has something in common with Turner Gill, last year's varsity signal caller.

Gill was a two-sport standout while at Nebraska, playing shortstop on the university's baseball team after his fall duties were concluded. Stephens also earned a second set of letters in the spring, but his came from the school's track team, which he captained his senior year.

Further, Stephens made more than a few waves in the sports world of his day, as Gill has done. Although the retired electrical engineer never considered professional sports, he was noticed by members of the sports establishment of the era. He has a newsclipping in which the legendary Knute Rockne of Notre Dame said he would take Stephens as his quarterback over any of the "Four Horsemen." His prowess in track also earned him an invitation to the 1928 Olympic Trials, he says.

"I placed second in the broad jump in the pre-trials in New York," he remembers. "On the basis of that, I was invited to the trials in Boston, but I didn't place there."

Another news item shows him as the first-string quarterback on the Missouri-Valley Conference All-Star team his senior year (Nebraska played in that conference prior to the formation of the Big Eight). And one set of sportswriters tapped him for honorable mention All-America hon-

ors.

"That was by *The New York Sun* or some paper I don't recall," he says, more amused than awed by the award. "Apparently, it was because we were able to beat New York University."

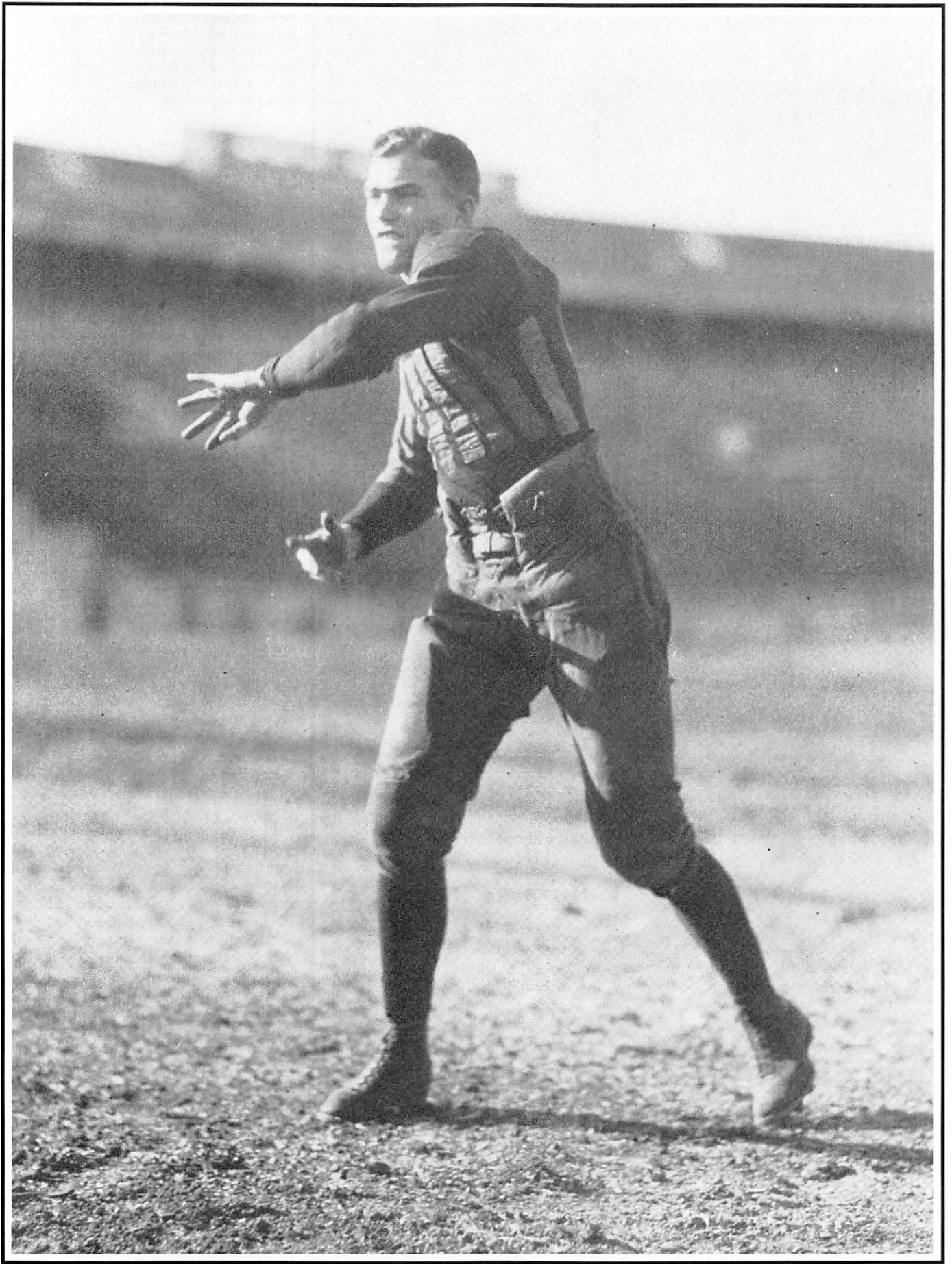
As he talks of the past and flips through an album crammed with photographs and newspaper clippings bearing his name and youthful likeness, a picture emerges of a multi-talented athlete involved in a competitive football program, but one far different than the high-powered, semi-professional game that exists on the college level today.

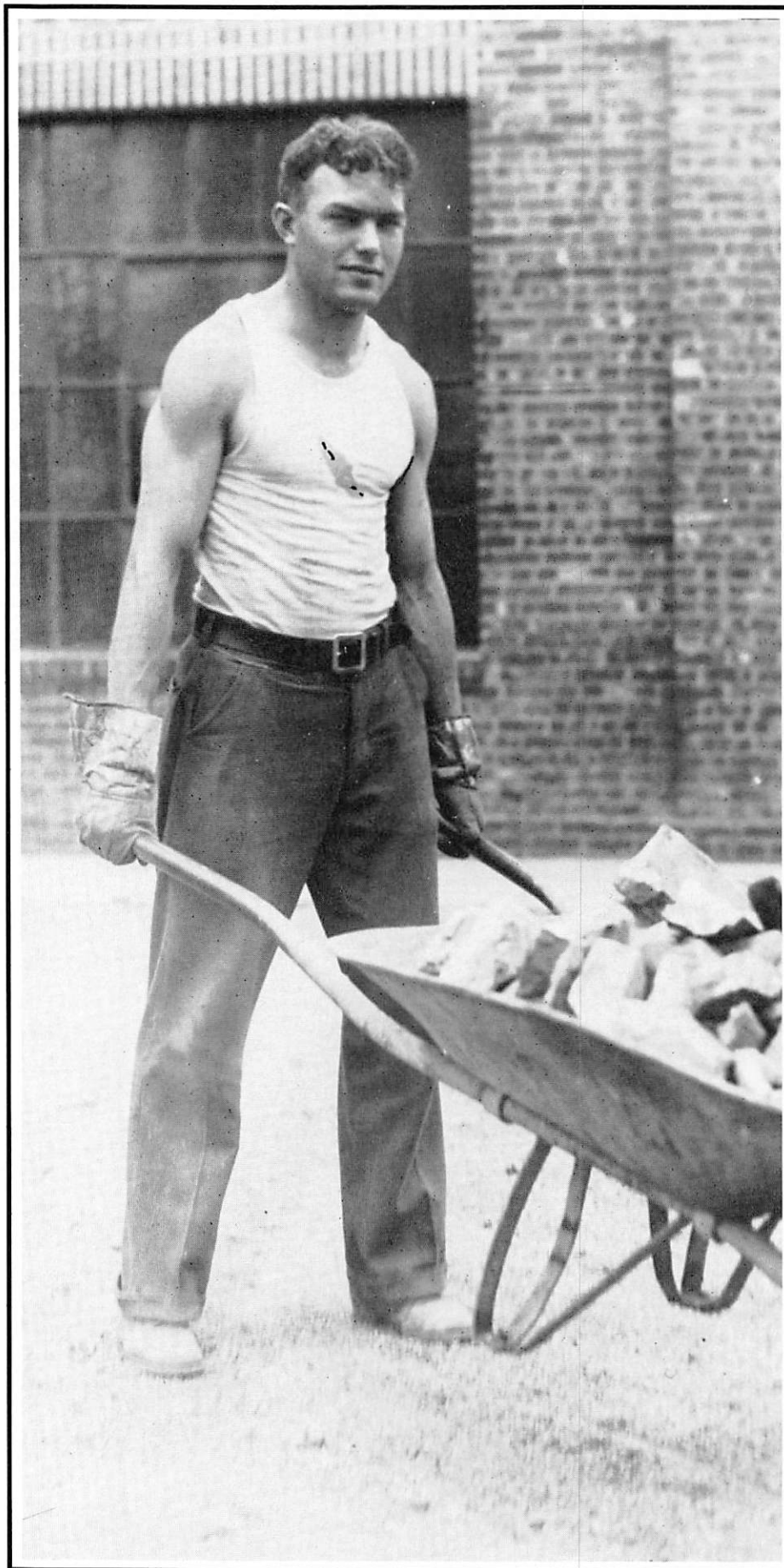
Nebraska was a recognized national power in the 1920 and many of the schools the team played were the same names that grab headlines today. He talks of lining up against a University of Illinois team that featured "Red" Grange; of Notre Dame, Missouri, Oklahoma and the Kansas Aggies (State).

"I won the Aggies game with a field goal," he says. "That was November 13, 1926. I still have the football at home."

Another game he remembers in detail was played against the University of Washington during his final season. The Huskies tied Nebraska in Lincoln his junior year and defeated the midwesterners 10-6 at Seattle his senior year.

"That was probably the biggest game I





Stephens, at one of his part-time jobs during off time from football; this was the closest they got to a weight training program in the '20s.

played in," says Stephens. "In fact, you can probably blame it on me that we lost. I missed a point after touchdown and a field goal. There were a lot of seniors on that team who were really broken hearted.

"Washington was one of the top teams and I played the whole game. I guess it took us about three days to get out there (by train). We stopped at some schools along the way to practice and I remember once we got out into a farmer's field by the tracks. We didn't change our clothes and just ran up and down a bit and practiced a few plays.

"It was wet out there (in Seattle) and they had a real crowned field of sand, packed real hard. Everybody had their faces rubbed raw from the sand. The Washington players were smart. They let their beards grow for a couple of days before the game because they knew what would happen."

Manicured fields and artificial turf are not the only aspects of today's game that have changed over the years. The Huskers traveled with only a 20-man squad in his day, he says, with players going both ways. Stephens played free safety on defense and remembers that one of his teammates refused to wear the cumbersome leather helmet, preferring to wrap the top of his head and ears with tape for protection.

During a game, although there always was a game plan, Stephens says he called signals for the wing-formation team after getting advice from linemen and ends who suggested what might work. He says pitchouts and quick kicks on third down were very common plays. Sideline runs and passes were not, though, as a play ending out of bounds placed the ball one foot in from the sideline for the next play.

"Once the game began, you were on your own," he says. "The coaches couldn't send in plays and if a substitute came in, he had to stand near the referee until we were lined up for the play."

The players worked on game situations in practice with the freshman team playing the role of the opponents. Also, he says, there was less emphasis on physical conditioning than today, although construction jobs were common during vacations.

"In the summer, we did hard work and a lot of running, mostly track work," he says. "But weights, no. In fact, I didn't know any on the team who did (lift). We

Stephens makes his home in Holyoke, Massachusetts today, but the memories and his love for the Huskers are still with him. (Photo by Jim Sears).

never heard of Nautilus. We had to beg to get a football to take home during the summer to toss around."

Stephens says he never heard of football players getting scholarship money to compete, either. He waited on tables at his fraternity and occasionally worked at a local stationary store to earn his college costs.

Another difference between then and now was the manner in which players went out for the team. Stephens says he spent his first two undergraduate years at Hastings College, where he played football and basketball, before transferring to the state university. He was rushed by fraternities after arriving in Lincoln, and then decided to try his luck on the gridiron.

"We just went down and they gave us some old pants, shoes and a helmet — old beat up stuff," he says. "We had to sprint for 40 yards to see how fast you were and they had tackling practice and kicking practice to see what you could do. I had to play freshman ball; myself and another fellow from Lincoln were the two freshman quarterbacks. It just got to be a routine and a lot of hard work."

He notes with pride that present coach Tom Osborne also went to Hastings College, but Stephens and another man from the institution were the only two, he says, to have also played varsity football at Nebraska.

"For a small-town boy to get into the big-time at Nebraska was good for me," Stephens says. "I'd never been outside the state until I went there. I went to the university because it was a good engineering school. It wasn't easy with playing football, but I did it."

He does not remember team members receiving extra help in the classroom and says one physics professor required him to spend weekends making up missed lab work before he'd turn in a final grade. However, Stephens says, athletes having special needs on the field were looked after.

"They had a voice teacher come down to teach me how to throw my voice," he says. "You didn't notice the crowds (during a game) other than the noise when calling signals. I have a soft voice."

The routine for the players on game weekends was more Spartan than today, but there were similarities. The night be-



fore a home game, he says the team and coaches slept on cots set up at a local country club.

"After breakfast (on Saturday), the coaches would go over the game plan and we'd get to the field house by noon," he says. "Everybody was nervous and keyed up. We'd walk up and down and not talk too much and go out on the field, so nervous you could hardly hold onto the football. When the whistle blew, it just disappeared. You'd think you'd get used to it, but it was the same every game."

Stephens says he hasn't attended many of Nebraska's games since leaving the midwest after graduation. The enthusiasm for "Big Red" football he generates, though, gives indication the team is never far from his thoughts. He carries a varsity

'N' medallion with him that, he says, entitles him to a ticket to any athletic event on the Lincoln campus. Also, he is an avid reader of *Huskers Illustrated* and watches the team whenever it is on television.

"I hate to see them start out in that position (No.1)," he says. "That makes it tough. Oklahoma is always the Thanksgiving weekend game and they'll be good. Being in that spot is hard on mental thinking."

Then, referring back to the nationally televised 44-6 Nebraska win over Penn State that kicked off last year's collegiate season, he says, "I don't think Penn State was that poor or Nebraska that good. There were too many mistakes, but they got over it." ♦



Jim Hartung gets more than a welcome home — an entire day named for him.

Nebraska Welcomes Her Heroes Home

Hartung and Johnson played integral part in "Miracle on the Mats" — USA's Olympic Gold Gymnastics Team.

LOS ANGELES — If this was the Olympics, it must have been time to join hands.

And that's just what bitter collegiate rivals Scott Johnson and Jim Hartung and Bart Conner and Tim Daggett and Mitch Gaylord and Peter Vidmar did in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The six young gymnasts from UCLA, Nebraska and Oklahoma put all individual differences aside and the result was one of the most magical moments in the history of American amateur sports.

The three greatest powers in U.S. collegiate gymnastics combined to reveal their true identity and they needed only three letters to spell it...USA.

USA. USA. USA.

Yep, the new lord of the rings in international men's gymnastics is a team that hadn't even won an Olympic team medal in 52 years.

For the first time ever, the American men were Olympic champions. They even set an Olympic record. Their 591.40-point total was almost two more than the Soviet Union scored in 1980.

How big of a surprise was it that the Americans upset the 1983 world champion Chinese and the Japanese in L.A.?

Well, remember 1980 when the U.S. hockey team upset the Russians for the gold medal in the "Miracle on Ice" at Lake Placid?

Thanks to the world-wide coverage of ABC Television, a nation embraced these six gymnasts in an emotionally-similar fashion.

Olga Fikotrova, the Czech who won the 1956 gold medal in the women's discus, once observed that "Standing on top of the Olympic victory stand is like stretching one's body on the top of the world. It is a moment where the individual man or woman gets introduced to the whole planet. It is a moment that is his or hers alone."

Hartung and Johnson, Nebraska's contributions to this gold medal team, did not get the full benefit of the glamor afforded by national television.

But let the record show they had the total respect of U.S. Head Coach Abie Grossfeld and their Olympic teammates.

If they hadn't performed so brilliantly, the "Miracle on the Mats" never would have happened.

Johnson, in fact, was given the bulk of the credit for the Americans' explosive start in the compulsories. The U.S. upset every form chart in the world when it commanded a 1.05-point lead after the compulsory round in UCLA's Pauley Pavilion.

"This is the greatest day in the history of United States gymnastics and the reason we're beating the Chinese is Scott Johnson," Grossfeld said at the time. "He was the key. He led it all off. He was the catalyst."

He was also the sacrificial lamb, who led the lineup in four events and performed second in the two others.

"When you're first man up and score 58.25 in the all-around, that's phenomenal," Grossfeld said. "Scottie was the whole key. He boosted everybody's scores. I love that kid's spirit."

Johnson swallowed his individual pride to pump the team scores.

"Going first and second, I had no chance of placing in individual event finals," he admitted. "But because of the way scores build in international gymnastics competition, I knew if I started with a 9.6, a 9.7 or 9.8, the judges had to follow with a 9.8, a 9.9 or a 10. It was real important for me to set the base score on a high level."

The Americans didn't jump on the Chinese with the Nos. 1, 2 and 3 gymnasts. "We beat 'em with our little guys," Grossfeld said. "Our fourth and fifth guys are definitely better than China's."

This was no hodgepodge American team put together with power at the top and weakness at the bottom.

A good example of that is Conner, the ex-Oklahoma standout and at 26, the oldest member of the team.

Conner qualified as the No. 6 man on the U.S. team in the final trials in Jacksonville. He barely made the team. Yet he may have been the Americans' most brilliant star in LA, considering his place in the lineup.

Vidmar, Gaylord and Daggett — UCLA's amazing triumvirate — got their share of glory in the city where they carved their fame.

But Nebraska Coach Francis Allen, the unofficial Olympic team manager, believes Conner and Hartung were the psychological leaders.

"Both did a great job of leading the team," Allen said. "Conner left his ego in a gym bag in Oklahoma. And Hartung never has worn his. He's always been a team man. That's why Abie took advantage of him in the lineup. He knew Hartung would still perform, whether he was first up or last up. You can't say that about some of those UCLA boys."

Such sacrifice did not go unnoticed by those more highly sought in the national television interviews.

"We've all done things in world competition and we've all done things in the NCAA," Conner said. "But we all agreed to put everything behind us — the Nebraska rivalry, the Oklahoma rivalry and the UCLA rivalry."

"This is a different thing," added Conner. "We're old enough and we've all been together long enough to realize we all had to come together. That was the turning point. We all jelled together at the same time."

The Chinese never got closer than the final score. They were 1.30 points down after the first rotation in the optionals, then .90, .85, .65 and .45 behind when it was all over.

Obviously, the tone set by Johnson in the compulsories was the key to holding off a stronger team.

"The Chinese are more talented than we are, but we caught 'em off guard," Hartung said. "We were better than they were when we had to be better."

Call it the chemistry of an Olympic champion. Johnson, a rock throughout the competition, finally showed he was human when he led off with a 9.40 on high

bar.

That put the pressure on. But Hartung followed with a 9.80. Gaylord went 9.95 and Conner 9.90. Then Daggett brought the house down with America's third 10 of the night (Conner and Gaylord had the others on p-bars and rings, respectively). Vidmar finished the miracle with a 9.95.

As soon as Vidmar dismounted on high bar, the six gymnasts hugged each other like long lost brothers and stepped up to the gold medal platform to hear the Star Spangled Banner and watch the U.S. flag rise where it had never been in this sport.

Conner's tears on the medal platform were particularly poignant. So were Johnson's enthusiastic power salutes.

Hartung and Johnson's pictures may have ended up in *Time* and *Newsweek*, but make no mistake about it. Neither felt that moment was his alone.

Each had a gold medal draped around his neck. Each held a wreath of flowers to a flag-waving crowd. And each looked skyward to the same corner in Pauley Pavilion.

After flying above the mats all night, their eyes took another journey: to the seats occupied by their parents, Jim and Karna Hartung of Omaha and Phil and Betty Johnson of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Even world champions think of their parents before they think of themselves and before they think of TV interviews.

Hartung and Johnson stood on the podium. They smiled, waved and felt the most wonderfully warm moment they have ever felt.

"When they played that national anthem and the flag was being raised, the feeling



Scott Johnson loved the Olympics, but he was glad to be home again.



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was as indescribable to us as it was to Jim," Jim Hartung Sr. said.

"It was a real back-chiller. It seemed like the goose pimples stretched forever," added the older Hartung. "I just wish everybody could get that feeling just once in their lives."

Jim Hartung Sr. couldn't help flashing back to the mattresses, the sidehorse and the parallel bars he put in the basement when his son was little "and how all those hours paid off in this one little moment."

Phil Johnson couldn't help flashing back to the films he had taken on birthdays and holidays "when Scottie was little and always running around with all that hyperactivity. I guess gymnastics was the best way for him to release all that energy."

Johnson called "those five minutes on the medal stand the greatest five minutes of my entire life. Nothing can ever compare to winning a gold medal. It was unbelievable. It took a long time for me to come down from that emotional high."

Grossfeld called the performance "unbelievable, fantastic — never thought it would happen in my lifetime. It would certainly have to be equal to the U.S. hockey win in every way. In the gymnastics world, no one even thought we could beat the Chinese. If you would have gone to Europe and asked the experts, it would

have been unanimous."

Francis Allen may have been the only "expert" in America predicting the possibility...on record.

He knew the Americans were one of the world's biggest underdogs. But he also knew if Hartung and Johnson were grappling for two of the last positions in the lineup, the power structure bordered on awesome.

Underdogs. And overachievers "physically, mentally, spiritually and every other way," Grossfeld said.

Even though Vidmar missed another gold medal in the all-around by only .025 of a point, he didn't care. "The team title," he said, "was all that mattered. Nothing can even come close to the team gold."

Gaylord called it "a new era for USA gymnastics. We feel awed to be pioneers of this sport."

The most beautiful thing about it was the city of angels falling in love with all six competing gymnasts (Nebraska's Jim Mikus was the official alternate).

Shortly before the women's finals paraded Mary Lou Retton into the national spotlight again, Johnson walked out of a side door at Pauley Pavilion.

A security guard spotted him, put his walkie-talkie on the ground, pulled an instamatic out of his belt and snapped a picture.

Then he held out a program and asked for Johnson's autograph. Fifteen minutes later, Scott was still signing autographs. He was a man drawing a crowd and loving every minute of it.

Hartung was also besieged. One man even waited until an hour after the competition was over to give the Olympian his own business guard. "My name's Jim Hartung, too," he said. "I'm the vice-president of a bank here in California and you've just made me famous."

Twenty-four hours before they climbed those golden stairs, Hartung and Johnson could have walked across the UCLA campus unbothered.

Then, quicker than instant coffee, they were celebrities in a city loaded with stars and usually blase about them. Among the celebrities watching in person were Gregory Peck and Linda Evans.

Breathtaking, mind-boggling stuff...all of it.

"It's like we've become instant heroes," Johnson said. "You couldn't walk across the campus without getting mobbed. I ate that stuff up. Why do you think I worked so hard?"

Johnson said he like the view from the sky and even though he knew it was inevitable, he didn't want to "come back down to earth" for awhile.

Hartung and Johnson didn't make it

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back to Olympic Village until 4 a.m. And when they did, they still had to sign at least a dozen autographs for security guards until they found their beds.

If that was exhausting, so was a whirlwind tour with other Olympic medalists to Washington, D.C., New York, Orlando and Dallas.

When Hartung got back to Lincoln, his head was still spinning.

"Everybody in the whole country is psyched," he said. "You'd go to those cities and see it in people's faces. They were standing on top of cars, waving and smiling. I knew people cared. I guess I just didn't know they cared that much.

"It's nice," added Hartung. "It seemed like everybody in the country had something in common. That doesn't happen too often. It's a great feeling when you know you've been part of something like that."

Hartung said he has flown all over the world and made the trip between Chicago and Lincoln "a thousand times."

But no flight was more special than the one he took back to Lincoln in mid-August. "I'm always happy when I come back to Lincoln," he said. "But when you've been gone six weeks, this time meant even more."

Even though Hartung knew there were USGF exhibitions ahead in Washington

D.C. again, Houston, Albuquerque and Indianapolis, he was happy just to be home.

The possible book, the possible documentary movie and the possible personal appearances were meaningful. But not as meaningful as coming back to the place where it all started.

Hartung and Johnson also were honored in a parade through downtown Lincoln and at halftime of the Nebraska-Wyoming football game. Omaha Mayor Mike Boyle also had a parade for Hartung.

The gymnasts were the highlight of Nebraska's Olympic production. But they weren't the only ones with NU connections to win a medal.

Former Nebraska sprinter Merlene Ottey-Page represented Jamaica, winning two of the country's three medals in the entire Games.

Ottey-Page won the bronze medal in both the 100 and 200 meters. A bronze medalist in the 1980 Moscow Olympics, Ottey-Page lost both races to Americans — Evelyn Ashford in the 100 and Valerie Brisco-Hooks in the 200.

Lisa Rohde is another ex-Husker who generated headlines in her native state.

The 28-year-old Hubbard native won a silver medal in the women's quadruple sculling with coxswain. A former NU letter-winner in volleyball, basketball and

crew, she rowed with Ann Marden of Concord, Mass.; Joan Lind of Long Beach, Calif.; and Virginia Gilder of New York, N.Y. Kelly Rickon of San Diego, Calif., was the coxswain.

"We won the silver medal, but I don't think I could be any happier," Rohde said. "The moment I will never forget in my entire life was when we crossed the finish line and I heard Kelly scream: 'You just won the silver! You just won the silver!'"

The Americans overcame a false start and fourth place in the last 250 meters to overtake everyone except the Romanians.

Rohde, the only non-East or West Coast member of the U.S. Olympic Rowing Team, joined Hartung and Johnson on the U.S. medalist tour.

Just missing that honor was another Husker, Angela Thacker, who finished fourth in the long jump. She missed a medal by only three-fourths of an inch, finishing behind Anisoara Stanciu and Vali Ionescu of Romania and Susan Hearnshaw of Great Britain.

Hearnshaw leaped 22-4¼ for the bronze. Thacker, a junior this fall at NU, leaped 22-3¾.

Thacker took her disappointment in stride. Her long range goal is the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. "By that time," she said, "I should be at my peak." ♦

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Osborne

Continued from page 27

exhibition games. I thought I had it made. Then, right at the end, they brought in Ray Norton, the Olympic sprinter who'd never played much football, but ran a 9.4 hundred."

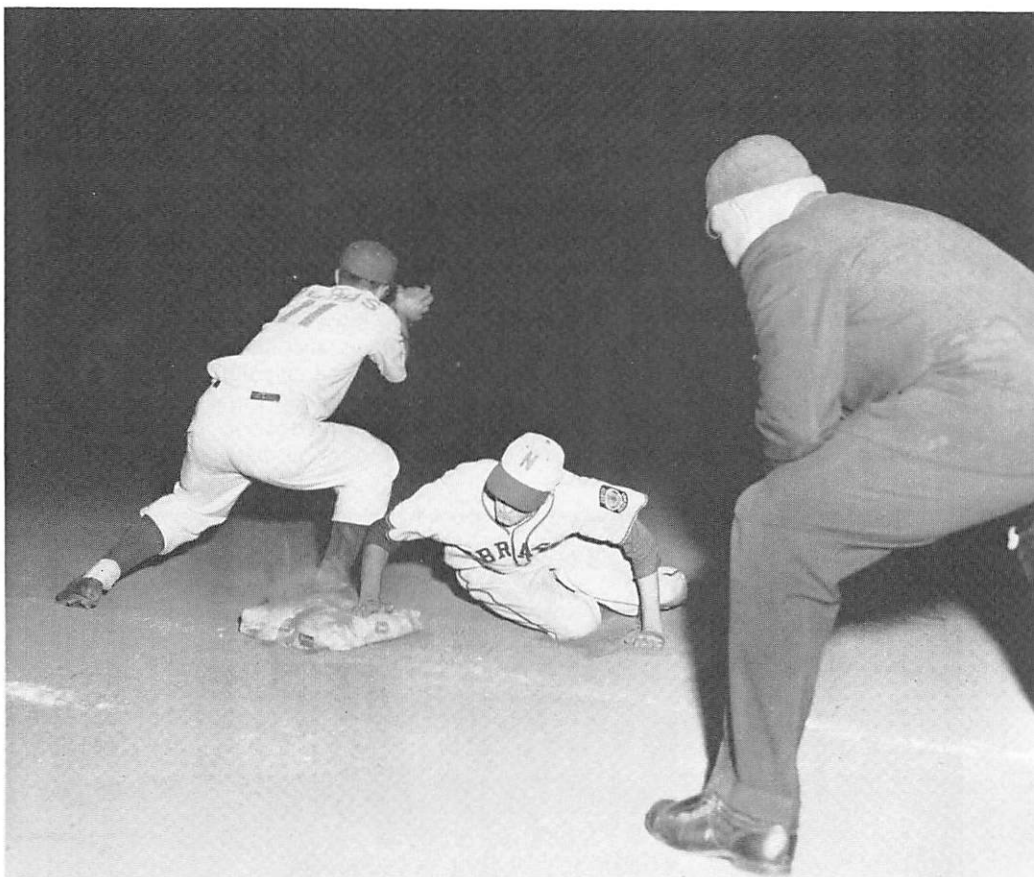
Even though "Norton hardly worked out with us, they cut me the last day," Osborne said. "I was one of the last two, three or four guys cut."

Fortunately, the Washington Redskins remembered Osborne from an exhibition game, were impressed and needed a receiver.

"I guess they thought I played all right. They called me the day after I'd been cut," Osborne said. "It was a different experience, getting on an airplane, going back and starting a season with people I'd never seen before and, all of a sudden, they were my teammates."

Joe Walton, now head coach of the New
Continued on page 62

Young Tom slides safely to base during his Nebraska junior baseball days.



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successful football program: "What Coach Osborne stands for as a person, that's where it all begins. Everybody else, including his assistants, fall into place behind him. He's just a hard-working coach."....

Senior center Mark Traynowicz on how he evaluates his performance during a game: "You only remember the bad blocks. They stick in your craw. I can't wait to watch films to see if they were as bad as I thought they were."....

Former Cornhusker quarterback Turner Gill, now playing for the Montreal Concordes of the Canadian Football League, on the difficulty of adjusting to a new system: "We're all looking for consistency. I have to become more comfortable with the linemen, and I have to learn to be in the right spot. Sometimes, they think I'm going to pull up, and I end up rolling out. In most passing situations I'm supposed to be behind the offensive tackle, and sometimes I'm not in that specific spot."....

Senior middle guard Ken Graeber on Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne: "On TV he appears awfully serious, but there is a light side to him. He says some good, humorous stuff, sometimes. He's not always serious."

Graeber on a defense that plays three downs and forces the offense to punt: "I like the idea. I'm not in that good of shape. I can go three plays, get off the field and get some water."....

Senior offensive tackle Mark Behning on the preparations for a game: "We give an equal amount of time in practice to the run and the pass, even if we don't throw as much as other teams. We're not just a running team."....

Minnesota football Coach Lou Holtz on Nebraska, following this year's 38-7 loss to the Cornhuskers: "The strength of Nebraska is its experience. They have 19 senior starters who must average about 22½ years old. We bring 17 freshmen to Nebraska, and they're just starting to register for the draft."

Holtz on Tom Rathman, the Cornhuskers' junior fullback: "Rathman is the best blocking fullback I've ever seen. He brought violence back to the game."

Holtz on Nebraska's fans: "You can talk about fans all over the world, and there are some awfully good ones, but there are none better than Nebraska's. I mean, those folks come and they have a good time. That's what college athletics should be all about. Walking down that tunnel when the game's over and hearing those fans cheer our players — that's a touch of class."

a note or two

Nebraska ranks No. 3 among the nation's college football programs in television appeal, according to *The Sporting News*.

In a column written by John Maher of the Austin, Texas, *American-Statesman*, Donn Bernstein, the director of college sports for ABC-TV, picked a national Top 10 based on fan appeal. According to Maher, the Top 10 is comprised of schools whose names are most attractive, based on a hard-to-define quality related to football.

It might be "luster, glitter, charisma, magnetism or sex appeal," said Maher. "Whatever it is, it separates the Penn States from the Pittsburghs, the Alabamas from the Clemsons."

Bernstein's Top 10, in order, includes: Notre Dame, USC, NEBRASKA, Alabama, Oklahoma, Penn State, Ohio State, Texas, Michigan, and UCLA, Arkansas (tie)....

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Former Nebraska gymnast Phil Cahoy was selected as the Big Eight Conference men's post-graduate scholarship winner for 1983-84.

He carried a 3.56 grade-point average, on a 4.0 scale, in earning his undergraduate degree in life sciences and was selected to the Dean's List four times. Cahoy won four NCAA individual titles and eight NCAA gold medals, was a member of three U.S. world championship teams, and qualified for the 1980 Olympic team.

He's the third Nebraska male athlete to be so honored. Previous Husker winners include track and field athlete Jon Jones, in 1983, and basketball player Kent Reckewey, in 1975. Cahoy is studying to become a doctor at the NU medical center....

Husker Angela Thacker, the fourth-place finisher in the long jump at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, became an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy on her return to Lincoln.

The junior from St. Louis received a certificate proclaiming the appointment

as well as a letter from Nebraska Governor Bob Kerrey, commending her on the Olympic performance.

Thacker missed an Olympic medal by three-fourths of an inch. "Three-fourths of an inch seems like a small amount, but when you're in competition, it's a lot," Thacker said.

"I really wasn't down because I felt I had performed well, anyway."

Husker record-holders

With all of the accolades going to Nebraska's famed I-backs over the years, it may come as a surprise to many football fans that four different Husker quarterbacks hold Big Eight passing records.

Turner Gill, of course, wound up with a .921 completion percentage against Kansas State in 1982 (11 of 12), a record that still stands in the league for a minimum of 10 attempts. And Dave Humm hit on 23 of 27 against Kansas in 1974 for a .852 percentage, best in the category of a minimum of 20 attempts.

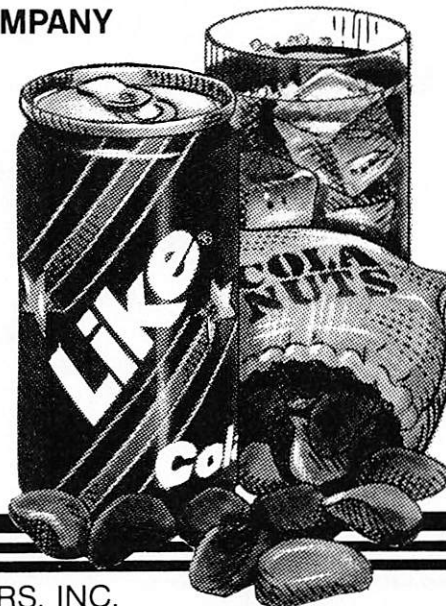
Jerry Tagge's .631 on 104 of 165 is

tops in the Big Eight for a season, while Vince Farragamo's .575 (on 237 of 412) is still the standard in the conference for a career.

In addition, Farragamo holds the Big Eight mark for touchdown passes in a season with 22 and Humm the record for a career with 42. Tagge is the leader in lowest percentage intercepted for a season (.167) and a career (.33) and for most yards gained per attempt (8.1) in a career with a minimum of 400 attempts (581 for 4,704 yards). Humm holds the career record (min. 300 completions) for most yards gained per completion with 14.26 (353 for 5,035 yards). ♦

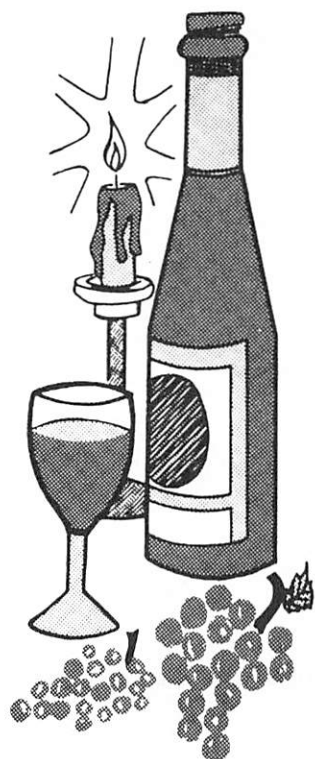
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Nebraska vs. Oklahoma

Continued from page 31

the football. I worried all week about being able to slow them down."

Oklahoma rushed for 339 yards, including 159 in 25 carries by Sims and 95 in 12 carries by King, but the Sooners attempted only two passes, both of which fell incomplete.

The Sooners took advantage of a rare rematch in the Orange Bowl and defeated Nebraska 31-24, but the Sooner spell had been broken. The image will forever be vivid in the minds of Cornhuskers football fans — Todd's kick sailing end-over-end to Phelps, who, in turn, is slammed to the turf by Ruud.

"I cut across the field toward him, and we were just running right at each other. I don't think he even saw me because I was behind a blocker, and I just stepped out and hit him," Ruud said. "He was running with the ball, and I hit him right in the chest.

"I got him good."

After Nebraska's victory in the 1978 regular season, Oklahoma won three straight, handing the Cornhuskers their only loss of the 1979 regular season at Norman, 17-14, and defeating them 21-17 at Lincoln in 1980, when Buster Rhymes scored with 56 seconds remaining.

The Sooners haven't won since.

Briefly, here's how Osborne's teams have fashioned their three-game winning streak against Oklahoma:

November 21, 1981

Nebraska 37, Oklahoma 14

NORMAN — Fifth-ranked Nebraska had already clinched the Big Eight championship when it visited Owen Field for its regular-season finale.

Even so, "it wouldn't have been a very happy championship if we hadn't won this game," NU head Coach Tom Osborne said when the contest was over. "I've taken so much guff over this game, I'm just pleased to win it."

Winning it was made more difficult a week earlier, when Nebraska's sophomore quarterback Turner Gill was injured during a 31-7 victory over Iowa State. That left senior co-captain Mark Mauer in charge.

Mauer, who hadn't started since the fourth game of the season, responded by completing 11 of 16 passes for 148 yards and a second-quarter touchdown to tight end Mitch Krenk. Under Mauer's direction, the Cornhusker offense generated 462 yards and 27 first downs.

Oklahoma scored first, on a 20-yard touchdown run by Buster Rhymes, just six plays into the game.

But when the Sooners scored again, in

the third quarter, Nebraska had built a 24-7 advantage on a 19-yard touchdown run by I-back Roger Craig, a 16-yard touchdown run by fullback Phil Bates, Mauer's six-yard pass to Krenk, and Eddie Neil's 38-yard field goal.

Neil kicked two more field goals, from 37 and 24 yards, and Bates scored a second touchdown from two yards out. Nebraska sophomore Mike Rozier gained 137 yards on 25 carries, to finish as the game's leading rusher.

Craig also topped 100 yards rushing, finishing with 102 in 18 carries. Mauer, now an NU graduate assistant, was picked as the Big Eight Conference Offensive Player of the Week.

"Mark earned his respect," Osborne said. "He should have earned the respect of everyone in the state of Nebraska."

The loss was only the second to a conference foe in Norman since Barry Switzer became the Sooner head coach.

November 26, 1982

Nebraska 28, Oklahoma 24

LINCOLN — The game was in doubt until the final 26 seconds.

That's when Nebraska sophomore defensive end Scott Strasburger intercepted a Kelly Phelps' screen pass in the end zone and brought it out to the Cornhusker one-yard line.

"I figured some time in that series the screen was coming," said Strasburger. "Oklahoma had gone to it in pressure situations in the past.

"The ball fluttered and hung. I grabbed it and just started running. I didn't know what direction. I knew the game was won if I just didn't drop the ball. I fell down and got buried."

Nebraska scored first on quarterback Turner Gill's 14-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, but Marcus Dupree's two-yard run and Mike Keeling's 24-yard field goal gave the Sooners a 10-7 advantage early in the second quarter. Back and forth.

By halftime, the Cornhuskers had regained the lead with a pair of touchdown drives, of 78 and 62 yards, capped by Doug Wilkening touchdown runs.

Nebraska's junior fullback scored from two and 14 yards out, and the Cornhuskers went to the locker room at intermission, leading 21-10.

Dupree, who rushed for 149 yards on 25 carries, got 86 of those yards on a touchdown run early in the third quarter to put Oklahoma back in the game. A pair of long touchdown drives, capped by Roger Craig's three-yard run for Nebraska and Stanley Wilson's one-yard plunge for the Sooners, completed the game's scoring.

But that didn't end the game's drama for Memorial Stadium's 124th consecutive sellout crowd and a national television audience. Strasburger's interception did that.

"I'm sure everybody thought of Penn State right away in those last minutes," said Strasburger.

Nebraska's only loss to that point had come in the final 1:18 to the Nittany Lions at University Park.

"We all knew Penn State beat us in the last minute, and we knew Oklahoma could, too, if we let them," Cornhusker linebacker and co-captain Steve Damkroger said.

But "nobody was going to let that happen," said Strasburger.

The Cornhuskers spared nothing this particular afternoon. Their second touchdown was set up by a 37-yard pass play that included an over-hand lateral from Gill, which bounced into the flat to wingback Irving Fryar, and Fryar's toss to Krenk — a "91 bounce play."

"It's an all-or-nothing thing," said Gill. "But this was a special game because it was for the Big Eight championship."

Damkroger was credited with nine tackles, eight of them unassisted, to break Jerry Murtaugh's career tackle record, established in 1968-1970.

Steve McWhirter, Nebraska's linebacker on the other side, made a game-high 14 tackles, and cornerback Dave Burke made 12 tackles.

November 26, 1983

Nebraska 28, Oklahoma 21

NORMAN — The fragile perfection of a regular season depended on a single play, made by an unassuming cornerback from Kansas City, Kan.

The cornerback was Nebraska junior Neil Harris, who batted away a Danny Bradley pass to Buster Rhymes in the end zone on a fourth-and-nine from the Cornhusker 10-yard line with 37 seconds remaining in the game.

Even though the Sooners already had three losses, a victory would have given them a share of the Big Eight title.

Oklahoma had driven to the Nebraska one-yard line, second-and-one, but a motion penalty pushed the Sooners back to the six, and Cornhusker defensive end Bill Weber's sack of Bradley cost them another three yards.

From there, it was two pass deflections by Harris.

Oklahoma argued that Harris had interfered with receiver Derrick Shepard on the third-down play. The officials ruled the ball was free after having been tipped.

NU linebacker Mike Knox "definitely did tip the ball, and any time you tip a ball, there's no such thing as pass interference

Continued on page 60



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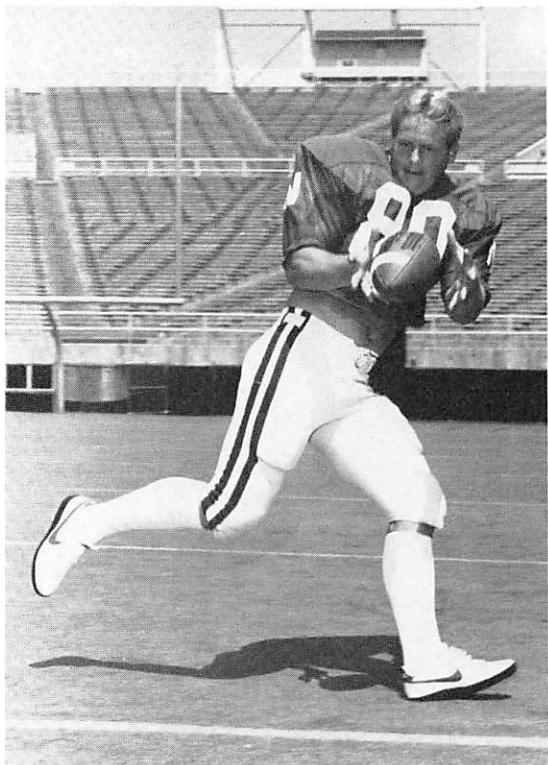
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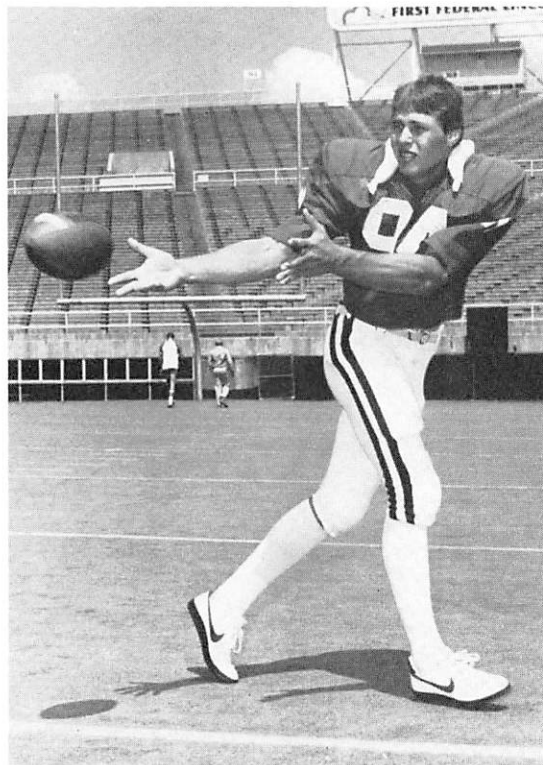
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Todd Frain



Brian Hiemer

FRAIN & HIEMER

***MORE DIFFERENT THAN ALIKE, YET
COACH HUEY HAD TO MAKE A RANDOM
CHOICE TO DETERMINE WHICH TIGHT
END WOULD START FOR THE HUSKERS.***

They're different, Todd Frain and Brian Hiemer.

Even though they're both junior tight ends on Nebraska's football team, and even though they both grew up in small, midwestern towns, Frain and Hiemer are different enough that one can't be mistaken for the other.

Frain, whose wife, Jody, is expecting

the couple's first child in the spring, stands 6-2 and weighs between 220 and 230 pounds. He came to Nebraska on scholarship out of high school in Treynor, Iowa.

Everyone back home expected him to do well. After all, he had earned 15 varsity letters as a prep athlete. "Todd isn't used to losing," Frain's high school football coach Ken Winkler said when Frain an-

nounced his intention to sign a letter of intent with Nebraska. It was only a matter of time.

Frain just had to be patient.

Hiemer stands 6-3 and if one is to believe the Cornhusker media guide, weighs 215 pounds. Nebraska assistant Gene Huey, who coaches the receivers, says Hiemer tips the scales at 210, but only "when the

humidity is high."

He walked on as a placekicker, with little encouragement from anyone but his own coaches, following a successful athletic career at Aquinas High School in David City, Neb. His home town, however, is nearby Shelby.

Hiemer attended Aquinas partly because of its athletic tradition and partly because his brothers and sisters all attended the parochial school. "I always debated whether to tell people I was from Shelby or from David City," said Hiemer.

"When I tell them I'm from Shelby, they automatically think I went to Shelby High School."

In any case, among the things Hiemer learned at Aquinas was persistence. One week into spring practice his freshman year at Nebraska, he was unceremoniously cut from the team. He refused to give up.

Frain and Hiemer are dramatically different, physically, and yet Huey almost had to flip a coin to tell them apart at the beginning of this season. Instead of flipping a coin, however, he chose a number between one and six and asked them to guess.

The method was no more scientific than a coin toss.

Hiemer guessed 2.

Huey's number was 1.

That's how Huey made a distinction between the two prior to the Cornhuskers' season-opening, 42-7 victory over Wyoming. That's also how Hiemer earned his first varsity collegiate start.

A week later, Frain started in Nebraska's 38-7 victory over Minnesota.

The week after that, when the Cornhuskers humiliated UCLA 42-3, Hiemer was again the starter.

So it goes. A system of alternation for the entire season was determined by one randomly-selected number between one and six, for a pair of junior tight ends who are definitely more different than alike.

Neither Huey nor Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne spends much time trying to separate the two. "I don't look at either one as the starter," Huey said. "From spring practice on, that's how it's gone, back and forth between them. I've been real pleased with their efforts.

"They'd be good subjects for a trivia game — Who Started Which Games?"

"They're almost interchangeable," said Osborne. "Brian's a shade faster and a little more of a threat as a receiver. Todd is a little stronger, though his speed has improved and he catches the ball well."

Frain caught only five passes last season, alternating with Monte Engebretson. But three of them went for touchdowns, including his first collegiate catch against Penn State during Nebraska's 44-6 victory in the inaugural Kickoff Classic at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

Cornhusker's Football is No.1



NEBRASKA



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On a first-down-and-10 at the Nittany Lion 20-yard line, Cornhusker quarterback Nate Mason found Frain wide open at the eight. He reached the end zone without incident.

"I didn't plan on catching a pass," Frain said of the play. Mason could have tucked away the football and run; that was his first option on the "fake 49 countersweep boot-leg right."

The run was open, but so was Frain, so Mason threw the ball.

That touchdown, before a national television audience of millions as well as the 71,123 fans in Giants Stadium, made Frain's collegiate debut considerably more auspicious than his first series foreshadowed. "Man, I was scared. I really was," he said.

"On my first play (from scrimmage), I was late getting off the ball. On second down, I jumped offsides but the official didn't call it, and on third down, we had an intercepted pass. My first series was pretty shaky, but I guess I got the jitters out."

Less than two weeks before the Kickoff Classic, Frain was third-string, behind Engebritson and Hiemer. "I wasn't even sure I was going to play until I moved ahead of Brian after our last scrimmage," he said.

Frain's second touchdown reception, one of two passes he caught during a 14-10

victory over Oklahoma State in Stillwater — it turned out to be the game-winner — led to a problem which bothered him throughout the remainder of his sophomore season.

When he was knocked down in the end zone, he jammed his right knee into the artificial turf "pretty good."

Frain finished the season, even though he was less than full-speed, catching his third touchdown pass against Iowa State in a 72-29 humiliation of the Cyclones.

"I limped around and couldn't come off the ball the way I should. It hurt all the time," Frain said.

Two weeks after the Orange Bowl game, in which he caught one pass for 16 yards, he underwent surgery to have calcium scraped from beneath his kneecap. The knee was slow to mend.

"Todd had kind of an average spring," said Osborne. By the beginning of fall camp, however, Frain was back at 100 percent, with increased strength and improved mobility.

"It feels great," Frain said.

A rehabilitated right knee wasn't the only change in Frain from spring to fall. With Jody's help and encouragement, he developed a taste for fruit and salads and dropped 15 pounds during the summer.

Huey suggested Frain lose some weight, in part, because "I got to holding my

breath whenever Todd caught the ball, wondering if he'd stand upright or fall down."

After the two pass receptions Frain didn't turn into touchdowns, he stumbled and fell.

"I didn't think I was that big and clumsy, but I can move my feet better now," said Frain. Despite the weight loss, "I've tried to keep my strength up, and I feel a lot better, all the way around."

While Frain dieted, Hiemer attempted to gain some weight. Huey, of course, suggested it. "He's always on my case about putting weight on," said Hiemer, with a smile.

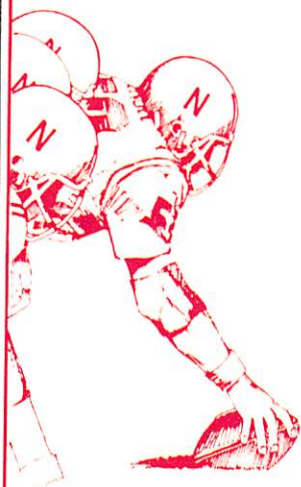
When he arrived at Nebraska, he weighed 190 pounds, hardly enough for a Big Eight-quality tight end but certainly sufficient for the kicker Hiemer hoped to be.

He was one of seven or eight walkons with aspirations of someday kicking for the Cornhuskers. Defensive tackle Jon Bunker, a walkon from Hildreth, Ne., was another.

The first day of freshman practice, all of the kickers were asked if they wanted to try playing a position, too. "I didn't know if I wanted to be a tight end or a split end," Hiemer said.

He chose the former and spent a season, with an undefeated junior varsity, as

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Frain's back-up. Frain caught four passes for 75 yards and two touchdowns; Hiemer caught none.

He was, however, successful on six of six extra-point kicks. That was his main concern. "I came here to kick," Hiemer said. "I just thought I might give tight end a shot."

Hiemer wasn't heavily recruited by any schools, large or small. Several small colleges contacted him, but having decided to major in agriculture, he never responded. Nebraska provided a solid curriculum in his field of study and the challenge of big-time football.

His attitude toward being a kicker quickly changed when he got to Lincoln. "I liked kicking, but I wanted to be out there, too," he said. After awhile, standing on the sideline, waiting to kick, didn't appeal to him. Hiemer wanted to be part of the action.

Even though he didn't catch any passes, "I thought I had a pretty good freshman year," said Hiemer, whose evaluation didn't coincide with that of Nebraska's coaches.

He was cut one week into spring practice of his freshman year, following what he thought was a good scrimmage.

Hiemer showed up for practice one afternoon, only to find his locker in the fieldhouse at the north end of Memorial Stadium had been emptied. "I figured I was done for," he said.

Most players, particularly walkons, would have taken the hint. They'd have found something else to do. With encouragement from his parents, however, Hiemer decided to approach Osborne to ask for another chance. He didn't think he'd been given "a fair shot."

Osborne listened and allowed Hiemer to return to the team the next fall as a scout squad redshirt. By the beginning of spring practice his second year, he had worked his way down the depth chart and was the No. 10 tight end. Again, it was decision time.

"When I saw that first depth chart, I figured it was useless," Hiemer said. Still, he persisted and by the end of the spring, he was sharing time with the first team.

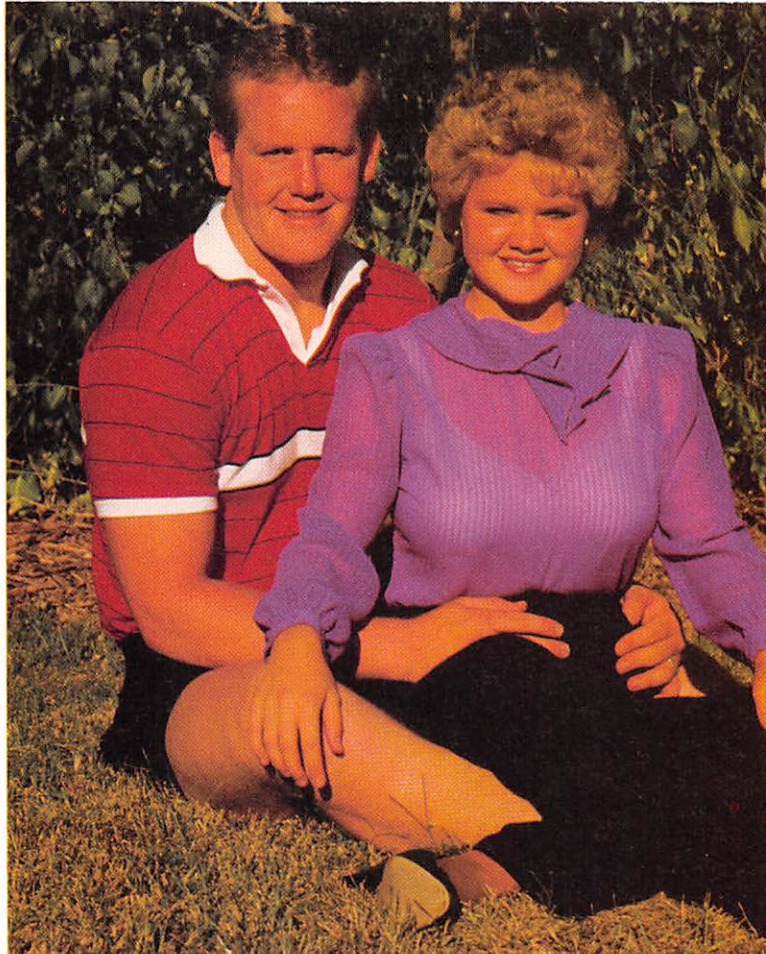
Because of an ill-timed bout with the flu, he didn't make the travel roster for the Kickoff Classic.

Hiemer, who caught two passes for 31 yards, one a 20-yard touchdown against Syracuse, spent most of his sophomore season as a third-string back-up to Frain and Engebretson, who also alternated at tight end from week to week. Most of his playing time came during non-conference games.

While Frain was recovering from surgery and having an average spring, Hiemer played well enough to earn a scholarship this fall. "That's the icing on the cake," he said.

Osborne told him after spring drills that he'd been given a scholarship, but Hiemer

Todd Frain
and wife,
Jody.



didn't celebrate immediately. After being cut once, and then having returned to the team as the No. 10 tight end, Hiemer was cautious.

"I was confident about getting the scholarship, but until I actually had that paper, I didn't know for sure," he said.

Hiemer and Frain are local heroes in the small midwestern towns that are their homes.

According to Huey, whenever a Nebraska game is televised, the folks back home in Treynor and Shelby all get together around a single television set to watch. Naturally, he's kidding.

Huey's standing joke with Hiemer is that the people in Shelby will probably build a statue of him and set it in the town square.

Though Frain grew up in Iowa, his home is closer to Nebraska than either Iowa State or Iowa University, the other schools to which he made recruiting visits. He turned down an offer to visit Missouri.

Treynor, which has a population of approximately 1,200, is less than 100 miles from Lincoln. Even if it isn't in Cornhusker country, it's close.

"I grew up on Nebraska football," said Frain, who regularly listened to Lyell Bremser's Cornhusker broadcasts on KFAB radio.

Like Hiemer, Frain was given a choice of positions, but he never hesitated in making a decision. He could've tried de-

fensive end after a couple of practices his freshman year but preferred to remain at tight end, the position for which he was recruited by Nebraska assistant John Melton.

Frain and Hiemer are friends, both on and off the field. Neither opposes the system of alternating from game to game, though, of course, both would like to be the clearcut starter.

"Sometimes it's frustrating," said Frain. But regardless of what happens, "we'll stay friends."

Nebraska uses its tight ends in such a way that the designations first- and second-team have little real importance. The Cornhuskers often line up with double tight ends; that's how Frain got his first varsity start.

He and Engebretson both opened last year's 34-13 victory over Missouri in Columbia.

Neither Frain nor Hiemer is likely to challenge the school pass receiving records for tight ends, established by Junior Miller, and neither is likely to have the professional future that awaited Miller, or even Williams and Krenk.

Physically, "neither one may be a gold medal winner, but they both get the job done," Huey said. "That's all I'm concerned about."

In addition, they're both juniors, and "they'll be back next season, with experience." ♦

Continued from page 40

Iba said. "But so can some other people. We should be better. We have to be better because the league as a whole will be stronger." ♦

NU Schedule

November: 29 — Southern Colorado.

December: 1 — South Dakota; 3 — Montana State; 8 — at Creighton; 10 — Wyoming; 12 — Wisconsin; 15 — at Texas Tech; 22 — Washington State; 28-29 — Cable Car Classic in Santa Clara, Calif. (Cincinnati, California-Irvine, Nebraska, Santa Clara).

January: 3 — at Evansville; 9 — Wisconsin-Stevens Point; 12 — at Colorado State; 16 — Kansas State; 19 — at Oklahoma State; 23 — Colorado; 26 — Missouri; 30 — at Iowa State.

February: 2 — Kansas; 6 — at Oklahoma; 9 — Oklahoma State; 13 — at Colorado; 16 — at Kansas State; 20 — Iowa State; 23 — at Missouri; 27 — at Kansas.

March: 2 — Oklahoma; 5-6 — First Round, Big Eight Post-Season Tournament; 8 — Big Eight semifinals, Kansas City; 9 — Big Eight finals, Kansas City. ♦

Continued from page 55

after the ball is batted or tipped," said Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne.

"Actually, as far as I'm concerned, Neil Harris was kind of in position and the guy ran into him. I'm not sure it should have been a pass interference call."

Nebraska scored on fullback Mark Schellen's seven-yard touchdown run with 6:53 remaining in the first quarter, but Oklahoma responded with Spencer Tillman's 39-yard touchdown run late in the half, then less than two minutes later, took the lead when Bradley and Rhymes teamed up on a 73-yard touchdown pass.

The Cornhuskers avoided being behind at the half, when Mike Rozier, the Heisman Trophy winner, capped a five-play, 73-yard drive with a three-yard touchdown run. Only 42 seconds remained before intermission.

Tillman put Oklahoma ahead again, on an 18-yard touchdown run with 6:22 left in the third quarter, but Nebraska struck quickly, and before the period was over, the Cornhuskers had wrapped up the afternoon's scoring and taken a 28-21 lead.

Quarterback Turner Gill scored the tying touchdown and Schellen scored the winning TD, on a 17-yard run.

"It looked like a couple of times Oklahoma was going to get control of the game, but we'd come right back and score in four or five plays," Osborne said.

With Rozier rushing 32 times for 205 yards, Nebraska generated 424 yards of total offense against a veteran Oklahoma defense that had allowed opponents an average of less than 100 rushing yards per game.

The 200-yard effort was Rozier's fourth in a row and his 11th consecutive 100-yards-or-more game, tying an NCAA record. He boosted his career rushing total to a Big Eight record 4,780 yards.

There were many heroic performances on both sides, on a cold, overcast afternoon, punctuated by drizzle and occasional heavy showers.

"I don't think anybody played badly. Our defense played pretty well, and our offense played well," said Osborne.

Still, what most Nebraska fans remember is Harris knocking away Bradley's final, desperation pass in the early-evening gloom settling over Owen Field. "That pass took forever to get there," Cornhusker defensive tackle Doug Herrmann said. ♦



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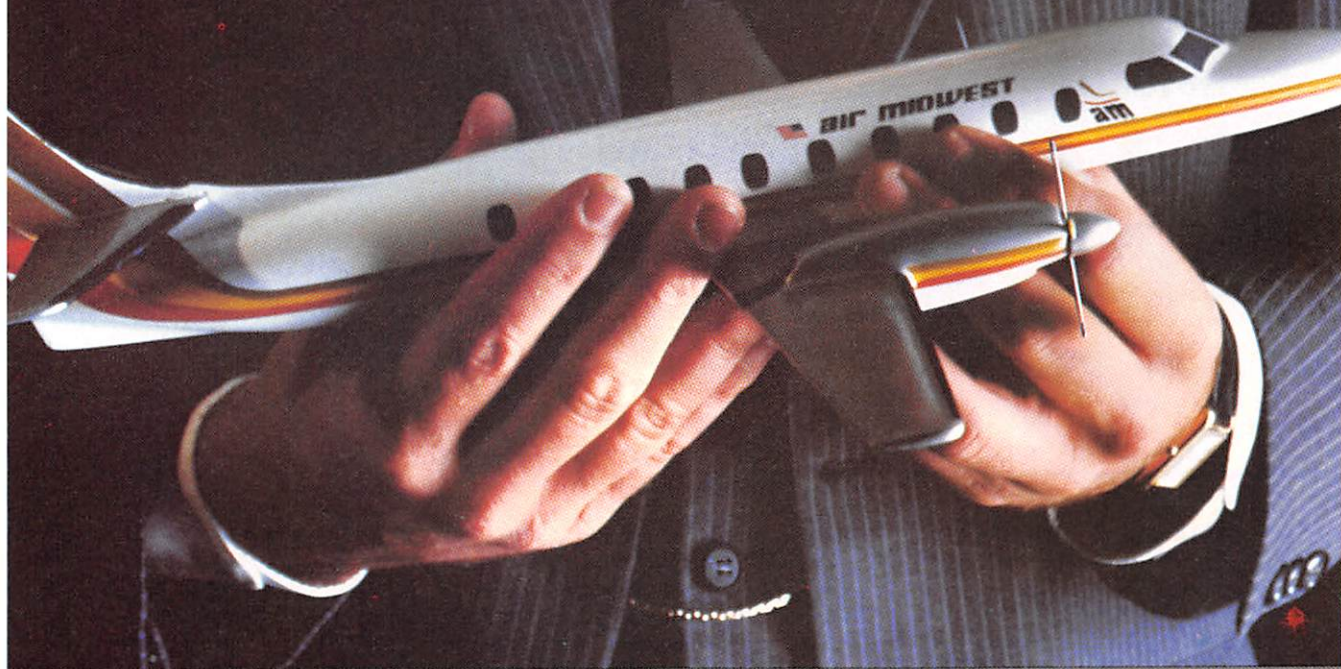
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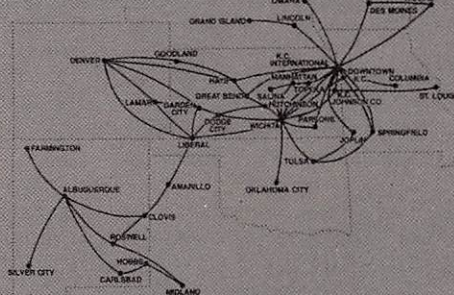
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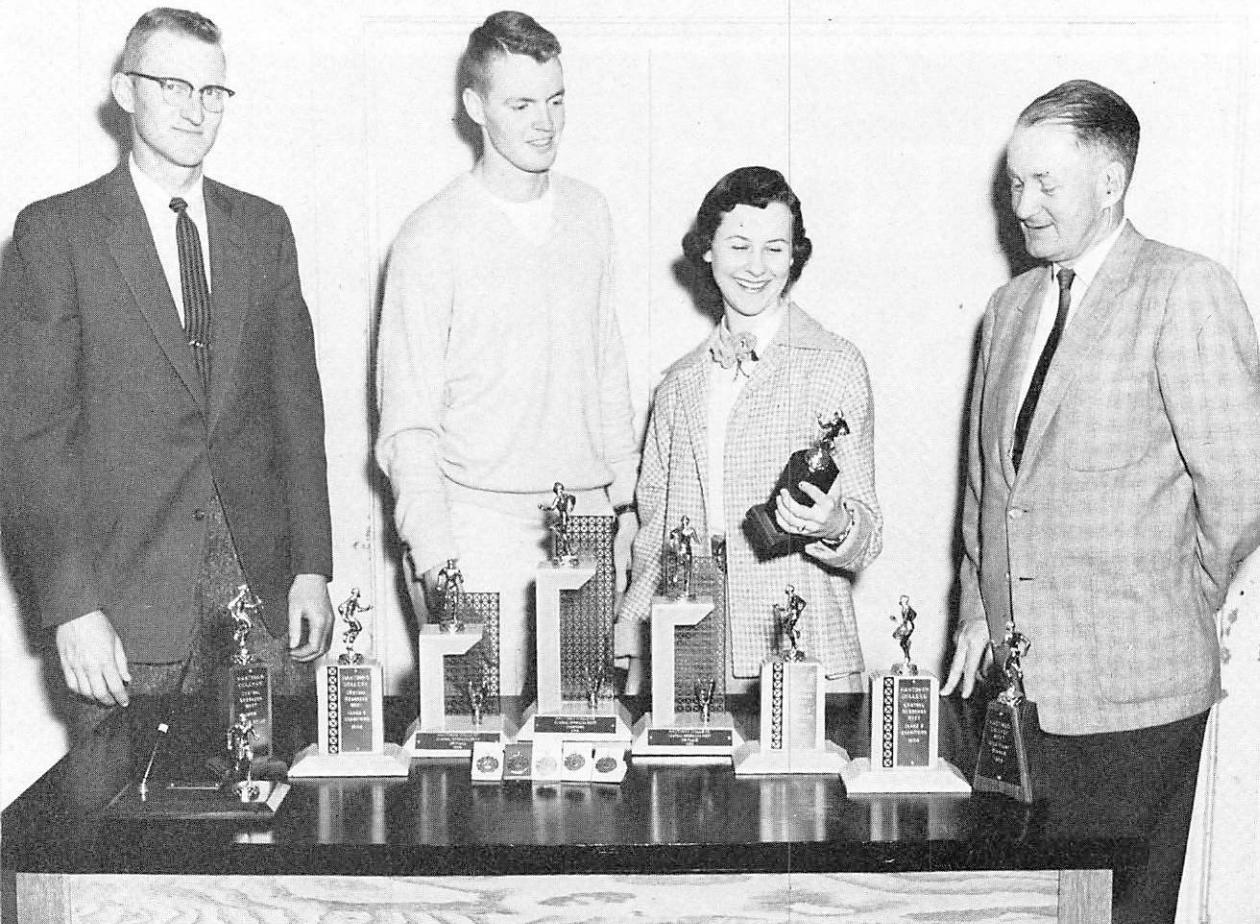
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"H" Club President, Osborne, with assistant coach Webber, Jeannette Aable and Coach McLaughlin at awards for Central Nebraska Track meet.

Osborne

Continued from page 51

York Jets, and Don Bosler had been Redskin roommates for two years and were looking for a third player to move in with them.

When Osborne made the team, he became that third roommate and stayed with the Redskins the next two seasons.

"We didn't have a very good team, but I played a fair amount that first year," Osborne recalled. "It was kind of a learning experience."

In the off-season, Osborne moved back out on the West Coast to attend graduate school at Southern Cal. He also returned and became engaged to a girl living in California.

"I enrolled for 12 hours at USC and went in to see John McKay," Osborne said. "I asked him if I could help him coach. He said he didn't need any help. But he could use a guy in the freshman athletic dorm as a dorm counselor."

For free room and board, Osborne took McKay up on his offer.

"Craig Fertig was in that dorm," Osborne recalled. "So was Willie Brown. And Hal Bedsoe and Pete Beathard. They were all great athletes, all freshmen and I was trying to ride herd on 'em."

The next year, Osborne returned to the 'Skins and managed to pull a hamstring when he was asked to run wind sprints

right after running a mile.

"I ended up playing the whole season with that hamstring bothering me," Osborne said. "It finally got to where they were shooting me before every game. The said it was cortisone. But I think it was novacaine. I'd go play, then wouldn't be able to do much. I could hardly walk until about Thursday of the next week."

But Osborne kept playing Sunday after Sunday. He was the second leading receiver on a 1-13 team. His contribution was 22 catches for 297 yards...not bad for a team which ranked dead last in NFL passing.

"We weren't very good," Osborne admitted. "And I didn't feel I had the speed I really should have had because of that hamstring. They just kept deadening it. By the end of the year, it was even worse."

Osborne realized he had a severe problem during the off-season "when it didn't come around after a couple months of rest."

By that time, he had broken off his first engagement and decided to return to graduate school at Nebraska.

The first engagement was ill-fated, Osborne said, "because I was in Washington and she was in California and I had Army Reserve...it was just a combination of things."

Convinced that his hamstring "was never going to allow me to perform like I needed to perform in pro football," Osborne made other plans.

"I knew I was never going to be a great pro player, so I needed to prepare myself to do something else," Osborne said. "I had one semester of graduate school at USC and wanted to go into college administration work, so I enrolled in the education psychology department here."

Osborne wrote Devaney about a job.

"He told me he could use a graduate assistant, but couldn't pay me much," Osborne recalled. "He did what McKay did — used me as a counselor and put me in a dorm with a bunch of kids from Chicago who were giving him trouble. So I moved in with those guys and started eating at the training table."

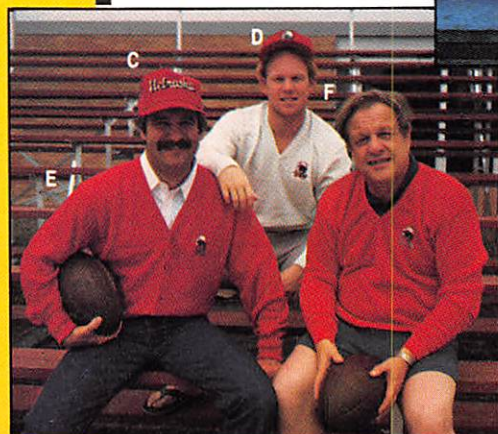
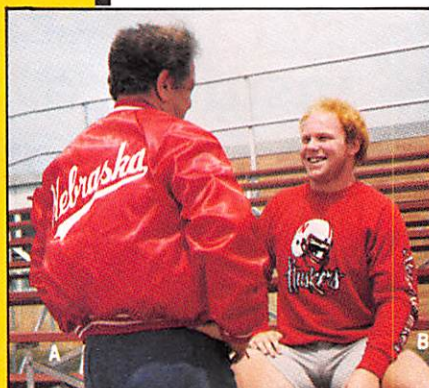
A month later, Dr. Don Fricke introduced him to Nancy Tederman, an attractive NU co-ed from Holdrege.

"It was a fairly fast romance," Osborne said. "We met in February, were engaged in May and married in August."

Tom Osborne's career as an athlete was over. ♦

In the next issue, we will explore Tom Osborne, the coach and in the following issue, we will profile Tom Osborne, the man.

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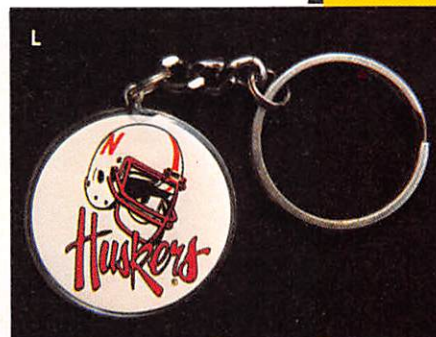
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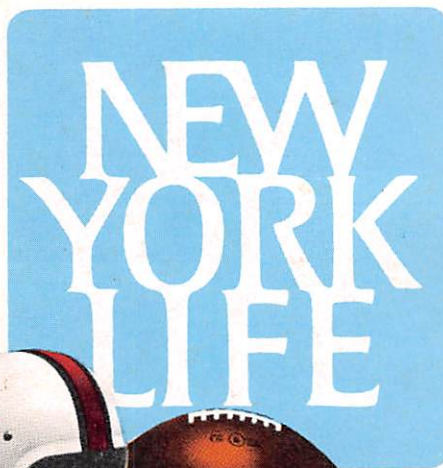
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